

Hafa Adai!

MVA: Fiscal year 2019 visitor arrivals down 30%. **PAGE 2**
King discloses strategies pursued to defend Crisostomo. **PAGE 3**

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Typhoon delayed tax rebates

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Tax rebates for fiscal year 2019 that are all clear and had already been printed were delayed for distribution due to Typhoon Bualoi, which nearly hit Saipan early Tuesday morning.

Finance Secretary David Atalig told *Saipan Tribune* that, although the checks for the tax rebates had already been printed, Typhoon Bualoi, which forced the CNMI government to close on Monday and Tuesday, hindered the sorting and the distribution of

See TAX on Page 4

Typhoon assessment ends today

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Damage assessments for Typhoon Bualoi, which missed Saipan and Tinian by a hair early Tuesday, is expected to

end today.

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Robert Hunter, who is leading the damage assessment efforts on Saipan, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday

that data collections started yesterday and preliminary numbers and estimates on damage sustained through Typhoon Bualoi might be

See ASSESSMENT on Page 4



Study looks if there are too many people in tourist sites

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

Saipan's most popular diving site, the Grotto, gets about 700 to 1,000 visitors every day. That number may be too much for the site, so the Division of Coastal Resources Management is right now assessing the site's capacity to absorb crowds to ensure that it remains protected.

With tourism being the primary industry in the CNMI, putting a cap on the number of people who visits the Grotto every day is important, given the strong relationship between the CNMI's pristine

See STUDY on Page 4

The Grotto is one of the three sites being studied by the Division of Coastal Resources Management, in terms of user capacity assessment, under its Sustainable Sites project.

L. MAURIN

INSIDE



ASIA

Kim Jong Un orders South Korean-made hotels at the Diamond Mountain resort destroyed.

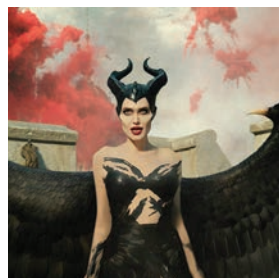
PAGE 15



FOCUS

The crowd hurled potatoes and rotten tomatoes at the withdrawing forces of the United States.

PAGE 17



LIFE & STYLE

In building the world of "Maleficent," the filmmakers came up with a big backstory.

PAGE 20



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Local

MVA: Fiscal year 2019 visitor arrivals down 30%

According to the Marianas Visitors Authority, arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota reached 37,022 visitors in September 2019 compared to 43,924 in September 2018.

Overall, in fiscal year 2019 ending on Sept. 30, the Marianas received 424,838 visitors, a 30% decrease compared to fiscal year 2018. Visitors arrivals were severely impacted by Super Typhoon Yutu in late September 2018 and its residual effects, including closure of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, restoration of all flights not being realized until March 2019, and reduced marketing

funding for the MVA. Arrivals were also dampened in recent months by the devaluation of the Chinese *yuan*, violent protests in the major airport hub of Hong Kong, and the softening of the Korean economy.

Korea marked 19,785 arrivals in September 2019, an 11% decrease compared to September 2018. Korea is facing an economic struggle due to the trade war between Korea and Japan, declining exports, and, to a lesser extent, trade tensions between the U.S. and China. However, Asiana Airlines will add a daily daytime flight from Oct. 27 to the end of the year and T'Way Air will

operate a second daily daytime flights to Saipan beginning Oct. 28, 2019, until late March 2020. Total arrivals from Korea in fiscal year 2019 were down 35% to 192,178 visitors.

Arrivals from China were 33% off last year's mark at 12,730 visitors in September, a traditional low season between summer holiday and National "Golden Week." The market is suffering from continued tension in Hong Kong, which provides direct connectivity with the Marianas for the Pearl River Delta region in mainland China. Hong Kong Airlines has suspended its service between Hong Kong and

Saipan since late August. In addition, the rising exchange rate, the highest in 11 years, is also affecting potential tourists' decision to visit an American destination. Furthermore, the competition among overseas destinations in China is getting tougher than before, which allows tourists more choices. Total arrivals from China in fiscal year 2019 were down 21% to 186,141.

The lone bright star on the charts, Japan posted 1,019 visitors for the month, 127% higher than September 2018 due to three direct charter flights to Saipan by Skymark Airlines during the month. The airline has also announced the commencement of regular direct flights from Tokyo-Narita to Saipan within this year. Total arrivals

from Japan in fiscal year 2019 were down 70% to 11,846.

Economic highlights

South Korea's economy grew at a slower than expected pace in the second quarter due to sluggish exports and smaller government spending. The economy is expected to be further weighed down by an escalating trade dispute with Japan and the ongoing U.S.-China trade war. There are growing concerns about possible deflation as South Korea's consumer price growth heads for a record low this year.

China, the world's second largest economy, is expanding at its slowest pace since the early 1990s. China saw industrial output grow at its slowest pace since 2002 in August.

Domestic issues, the trade war with the U.S., and swine fever are all putting a brake on China's rapid expansion. Both the weakening in the domestic economy and deteriorating external environment, including a global slowdown and the U.S.-China trade tensions, have a role to play in China's slowdown.

Japan National Tourism Organization reported that the number of Japanese overseas travelers in August 2019 was up 3.7% to 2,109,600, showing growths for 18 months in a row. Japan's consumer price inflation fell to 0.3% year-on-year in August 2019 from 0.5% in the previous month and well below market expectations of 0.6%. It was the lowest inflation rate in six months. (PR)

Woman allegedly stabs man with knife

A man was injured when a woman allegedly stabbed him with a knife during an argument at a home in Kagman III Thursday night.

Julita Namauleg, 53, was arrested for alleged assault with a dangerous weapon and disturbing the peace.

At a hearing yesterday, Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan imposed a \$15,000 cash bail on Namauleg.

Police said the victim sustained two cuts on the right elbow, each about half an inch deep, a minor laceration on the right hip, and a

scratch on his back.

The relationship between Namauleg and the victim was not indicated in the report.

According to a police detective, a police officer responded to Kagman III Friday at 12:27am after the Department of Public Safety received a call about an injured person.

When a police officer arrived at the scene, he saw the injured victim along the highway, yelling at Namauleg why she stabbed him. Namauleg kept insisting that she did not stab him.

Medics then transported the victim to the hospital.

The officer learned from the victim that he, Namauleg, and another man had been drinking at their house Thursday night. At 11pm, the victim asked the two to grab their belongings as he was going to sleep.

The victim and Namauleg got into an argument and Namauleg allegedly grabbed a small knife from the top of a shelf and tried to stab the victim. The victim managed to move away, but sustained a small cut on his elbow. (Ferdie de la Torre)

Atalig: Data is everything

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The CNMI could greatly benefit from data collected by the 2020 Census, specifically in the fields of finance, education, and policy-making, according to Finance Secretary David Atalig.

With the 2020 Census preparing to kick off as early as spring 2020, the data that will be collected is essential for a government to make the necessary decisions, Atalig said.

"Census data for federal grants is very important. It is very important for the distribution of resources in terms of communities and precincts," Atalig told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview.

Board of Education chair Janice Tenorio believes the data could also be used to determine where the Public School System could build its campuses to greatly benefit residents.

Several government agencies, according to Atalig, use federal grants to partially or even fully fund programs offered to the community.

"A lot of federal agencies that give grants use our census data as a formulary to give us an amount that we can generate from the federal government," he added.

"Census information is essential on how we appropriate which areas need more [resources]. ... It is helpful to have that data. ... We use that data to help us be fair to the whole community," Atalig said.

For PSS, Tenorio told *Saipan Tribune* that census data is very useful when it comes to knowing which precincts are the densest in terms of student population.

"[We can use] the census data to prepare for future expansion, or even to minimize classroom area," she said.

Tenorio added that the census would be collecting demographic information that is useful to PSS, including the number of children in a household, their ages, and their location.

"This is great information in regards to expanding or narrowing our school zones. We would know...[whether there should be] more high schools, middle

schools, or others," she said. "This data could really pinpoint if we need to recruit [teachers] or build classrooms."

Acting governor Arnold Palacios noted in a previous speech that census data is essential for appropriating resources and determining policy decisions. "The census paints the characteristics of our community," he said. "A lot of times, as leaders, we make decisions. A lot of times, we don't have that information to make [better] decisions," he said.

Palacios added that the effectiveness of policies would highly depend on census data.

"A lot of times, we introduce legislation...without those information. We don't know how many people reside in the southern part of the island, and where the hospitals, dispensaries, and schools ought to be built," he added.

"In the wake of my passion to grab resources for my precinct, I sometimes forget that there are people who live [on other parts of the island]," he said, adding that he believes that the data from the census could be used for a better community altogether.

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King discloses strategies pursued to defend Crisostomo

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

In a declaration used to support the Office of the Attorney General's response to a petition for writ of habeas corpus, attorney Janet H. King disclosed the strategies that she and two co-counselors did as then-defense counsel for Joseph Acosta Crisostomo, who was subsequently convicted for murdering, raping, and robbing a bartender in 2012.

In her declaration, which was issued last Aug. 28 and was filed before the Superior Court last Sept. 27, King said the defense team's strategy was to attack the opinion of Federal Bureau of Investigation DNA analyst Susanna Kehl's personal interpretation of the DNA evidence based on her methodology—not her actual methodology on her curriculum vitae.

King said the defense team considered that Kehl's actual methodology on her curriculum vitae likely meet the Daubert standard for purposes of admissibility. Daubert refers to a hearing held before trial to determine whether a proposed expert meets the requirements.

As such, King said, the defense team placed less emphasis on pursuing a Daubert hearing as to exclude Kehl's opinion as an "expert" and placed more emphasis on her interpretation of the DNA evidence.

Citing DNA evidence, the prosecution said Crisostomo's semen was found in the victim's vagina.

Kehl testified that the chance that Crisostomo's DNA would match another Chamorro would be one in 960 million. She said that will take some 22,000 Saipan islanders to find Crisostomo's DNA match.

Crisostomo has written a handwritten petition for habeas corpus addressed to Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja, in which he accused his former lawyer,

King, and her co-counselors from Guam, of providing him ineffective assistance. He named as respondents in his petition the Department of Corrections and then-DOC commissioner Vince Attao.

Habeas corpus refers to a court order to a person (prison warden) or institution holding someone in custody to deliver the imprisoned individual to the court that is issuing the order.

In DOC and Attao's response to Crisostomo's petition, assistant attorney general Jose Mafnas Jr. asked the court to deny the petition in its entirety. Mafnas attached King's declaration to support DOC and Attao's arguments.

In her declaration, King said one of the defense team's defense strategies against Kehl was to communicate to the jury that Kehl subjectively interpreted the DNA evidence, and that a machine did not interpret the DNA evidence as to provide an objective conclusion.

The intent of such strategy was to overcome any personal prejudices in favor of the strength of DNA evidence, King explained.

King was the lead defense in the case. She was assisted by Randal Cunliffe and Jeff Moots, who are based in Guam. Dr. Joseph Haymer served as their DNA expert.

She said that throughout her representation of Crisostomo, she received advice and recommendations by Haymer on the veracity of the DNA evidence against Crisostomo.

King said that, after receiving initial discovery materials concerning DNA evidence to be used against Crisostomo, Haymer advised her to file a motion to compel discovery of more documents.

Specifically, Haymer advised King to request Kehl's case file materials such as her bench notes, chain of custody forms, and other available ma-



King

terials. The purpose was for the defense team to form a strategy to attack the methodology that Kehl relied on to arrive at her opinion/interpretation regarding the DNA evidence found at the scene of the crime.

King said the OAG prosecutors assigned to the case were cooperative and very responsive to her discovery requests for documents regarding DNA and the FBI lab.

After filing the initial motion to compel discovery on Aug. 23, 2013, the OAG then asked for Kehl's case file materials. King said she immediately sent copies of the materials to Haymer for his analysis and preparation.

King said Haymer later represented to her that had enough information to study Kehl's analysis and interpretation of the DNA evidence.

She said Haymer did not represent that he did not have adequate time to evaluate the pertinent material such as Kehl's lab reports and other subsequently requested information regarding her case file.

King said she also filed a second motion to compel discovery, but this motion focused on other pieces of forensic evidence.

In DOC and Attao's response to Crisostomo's petition, Mafnas said petitioner has not met his burden and is not entitled to relief. Mafnas said Crisostomo has failed to prove ineffective assistance of counsel.

Mafnas said an evidentiary hearing is not warranted as the record is enough to show that King and her defense team, including Haymer, were able to meet a meaningful defense and attack on Kehl's testimony through an extensive cross-examination.

In Crisostomo's reply, Cong Nie, the newly appointed counsel for Crisostomo, said it is extremely rare for two persons to have identical DNA

profiles.

Nie said Kehl's testimony started with an assumption that the major contributor's DNA profile was Crisostomo's.

"It was meaningless and misleading to discuss how rare a different person would have that profile—the real question was, was the major contributor's DNA profile the same as Mr. Crisostomo's in the first place (or, if it could not be determined with certainty, how likely was it)," Nie said.

Nie said that question, as undisputed by DOC and Attao, was never answered by Kehl at Crisostomo's trial.

Naraja assigned Crisostomo's petition to himself.

On April 24, 2014, a jury found the then-40-year-old Crisostomo guilty of first-degree murder, kidnapping, sexual assault in the first degree, and robbery.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho, who presided over the trial, sentenced Crisosto-

mo to life imprisonment.

The victim, Emerita R. Romero, 37, was last seen boarding a car near her house in Garapan in the early morning hours of Feb. 5, 2012. She was supposed to meet her boyfriend in Chalan Piao. Two days later, FBI agents found her body in a small bathroom at the abandoned La Fiesta Mall in San Roque/As Matuis.

In July 2018, the CNMI Supreme Court affirmed Crisostomo's convictions.



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Pangelinan: Things are going smoothly

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

Despite efforts of some watersports companies to go around the rule to board tourists going to Managaha Island at the Smiling Cover Marina, the Division of Fish and Wildlife, which is implementing the new rule, assured that the new system has been smooth sailing.

DFW director Manny M. Pangelinan said he is aware that other boat operators are circumventing the new rule by boarding their passengers at the Garapan Fishing Base but assured that things are going smoothly at the Smiling Cover Marina, a week after

the implementation of the new system.

"To me, on this site, with the people that are using this dock, things are going smooth[ly]," Pangelinan said. "I know that there are other people who do not want to participate [in] the program, and they seek other avenues to get...the best of the government, such as working with another government agency."

A boat operator docking at the Smiling Cove Marina also said his operations are "okay and smooth."

Boat operators in the CNMI have been divided on where to load their passengers who are going to Managaha, given the closure of the Outer Cove

Marina at the end of September and requiring them to load their passengers at the Smiling Cove Marina, this time with a \$3 fee per passenger. Some watersport operators have balked at this fee and have opted to load their passengers at the Garapan Fishing Base or other commercial ports, where they only pay the Commonwealth Ports Authority only \$1 per customer.

"The boss used to dock at the Outer Cove but they closed it so we are docking here, us and the diving (tour option), because there is no charge here," said one boatman who refused to be identified, while waiting for his passengers to arrive at the Garapan Fishing Base.

Passengers walk to waiting boats at the Smiling Cove Marina for a full day of adventure on Mañagaha Island.

IVA MAURIN



An elderly tourist on a wheelchair and a companion go through the gangway of the transient dock at the Smiling Cove Marina to get on the boat that would take them to Mañagaha Island.

IVA MAURIN

The \$3 per passenger loading fee was set to maintain the transient dock within the Smiling Cove Marina, which is now being used to load and unload passengers, in lieu of the Outer Cove Marina, which the Department of Lands and Natural Resources has declared unsafe for public use.

Pangelinan said the insistence of some watersport companies to not use the Smiling Cove Marina only means that those who used to use the Outer Cove do not want to participate in developing or improving the facility that serves them.

"Those people who have been using this dock for five years has abandoned us because they do not like to be charged," he said. "This facility is not used by recreational boaters, but only solely for

those transporting people to Managaha, and those who are doing parasailing, banana boat, marine water sports. Those people, if they claim that they want to help, where are they?"

Pangelinan also explained that the tent that DFW put up after the first day of implementing the \$3 passenger loading fee is the first to be put up for passengers since 2015, and that the tourists are walking on the gangway, and are not being herded like cattle.

"[An individual] said that the [tourists] are being treated like cattle. This gate [on the transient dock] is the gate that [passengers] have to walk through. This gate is secure. This is a gangway. This gangway is no different since 2015 and now."

Pangelinan also said that he spoke with CPA board member Pete S. Reyes regarding the standardization of fees, and that he is hoping that the CPA board will discuss his concern.

STUDY

From Page 1

environment and its economy, said Kelsey McClellan, coastal management fellow at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and is currently working with DCRM under the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality.

"Folks come here because they want to see a beautiful environment," McClellan said. "However, when you go down to the Grotto, and you have 175 to 200 people in the water at the time, that's most likely going to diminish enjoyment. So it is taking money away, eventually, from our marine sports operators."

McClellan is working on a User Capacity Report for three sites: the Grotto, Laulau Bay, and Obyan Beach.

"User capacity essentially is defined as how many people can fit in an area without having negative environmental impacts or negative impacts on the other people enjoying the space," McClellan explained. "At what level does the enjoyment of this particular space become diminished when too many people are past this threshold?"

The carrying capacity of the three Saipan sites will be quantified based on three metrics: water quality data, head count data, and visitor satisfaction. Security company G4S is taking headcounts and

is contracted through the Mariana Visitors Authority.

"Basically, it is like three factors for people's enjoyment, for the economy," McClellan added. "We need to make sure that we have rules and regulations in place that are informed by science, as to this is how many people need to be at the site where we are not losing money, but we are also not impairing the environment."

McClellan expects to get all collected data by the end of December. Once they have the results, they will work with the Legislature in coming up with laws that will mitigate the crowds, and for these user carrying capacities to be put in place by appropriate agencies.

McClellan also emphasized the need to work with all stakeholders in the community. "...We...need to work with our marine sports operator community [to] make sure that we are all on the same page, that the tour operators are self-enforcing, that they are working to make sure that they are taking...care of the environment."

This user capacity assessment is a component of BECQ-DCRM's Sustainable Sites project, which started in August.

For questions about user capacity, contact McClellan at kmcclellan@dcrm.gov.mp. For more information, visit the DCRM's website at <https://dcrm.gov.mp/current-projects/sustainable-sites/>.

TAX

From Page 1

the checks.

He assured, though, that his department would definitely be distributing the checks by the end of this week.

"We printed out the checks on Friday. We were going to sort [Tuesday] and release [Wednesday], but, because of the typhoon, we will be sorting it [Wednesday] and we will be getting them out this week," he said.

The second batch of the fiscal year 2019 tax rebates have

long been in process, with several unintended hindrances getting in the way.

In a previous interview, Atalig noted that his department had to double check the second batch of rebate checks because of changes to federal taxes, causing a technical difficulty in the current program that calculates the tax rebates in the CNMI.

The Finance Department released its first batch of tax rebates last Sept. 18, which amounted to about \$7.48 million. The second batch, according to Atalig, is about \$2.1 million. There will be a third and

final batch of tax rebates but those check were delayed only because of some discrepancies.

"There are still a lot of people with corrections that need to be made and verifications that need to be done, but we are releasing the checks that have been all cleared," he said, adding that those who don't receive their tax rebates for fiscal year 2019 might need to give the Division of Revenue and Taxes additional documents.

The rebates total nearly \$21 million in all, \$11 million of which is for the federally funded child tax rebate.

Atalig previously affirmed

that the tax refund money was temporarily used for Super Typhoon Yutu recovery, causing a delay in the release of the annual tax rebates for fiscal year 2018. Tax rebates are usually distributed around the end of May or early July.

"...With the governor's emergency declaration for the response and recovery of Super Typhoon Yutu, all monies were used to get us through. Unfortunately, we were not reimbursed as quickly as anticipated, therefore I couldn't replenish it to the levels needed for the full refund," Atalig previously said.

ASSESSMENT

From Page 1

available as early as today.

"We'll be compiling the collected information and meeting with [the Federal Emergency Management Agency] and [the American] Red Cross-[NMI Chapter] to go through anything that has been found. But, as far as the [extent of damage goes], it is still premature [to say]; our crews are still in the field," Hunter said.

He noted that Division of

Youth Services administrator Vivian Sablan is also participating in the assessment efforts.

"They went out beginning at 8:30am and are hitting every village and as many side roads and houses that they can try and gauge if there was any damage at all and, if there is, what kind of damage," Hunter said.

Department of Public Works Secretary James Ada told *Saipan Tribune* that his department dispatched teams to clear drainages around Saipan as early as two days

before Typhoon Bualoi's nearest approach to the CNMI.

"Drainage was cleared before the typhoon approached," Ada said. "All outlets to the lagoon [were] cleared as well before the storm approached."

The "...only major problems we [saw] were the road cuts that have yet to be restored by [the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.]," he said, adding that road cuts were a responsibility of CUC.

Acting governor Arnold I. Palacios said in a short phone conversation with *Saipan*

Tribune that he expects very minimal damage from Typhoon Bualoi.

As of publication, Typhoon Bualoi was a Category 4 typhoon and was spotted about 505 miles north-northwest of Saipan, with maximum sustained winds of 140mph

The typhoon is forecasted to slowly weaken in the next few days and is expected to continue north at 17mph, based on the final bulletin released by the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency on Oct. 23, at 2:15pm.

NMTI earns clean audit

By **MARC A. VENUS**
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Trades Institute recently received a clean audit from accounting firm Burger, Comer, and Magliari, during an audit that covered the entire fiscal year 2018.

This was learned at an NMTI board of directors meeting last week, during which Gilbert Morales of Burger, Comer, and Magliari presented the results of the audit.

NMTI used to follow a calendar year-based audit but, since its transformation to a

government entity, it now follows a fiscal year process.

Based on Morales' report, with the deductions of liabilities, NMTI's net assets in fiscal year 2018 were at \$606,994 as a combination cash, receivables, and equipment. NMTI also received several sources of funds from donors with and

without restrictions.

Donors with restrictions come from certain funding sources with restrictions such as the funding from the CW law, which is strictly for education purposes. Donors without restrictions is money that come from tuition, student fees, government appropria-

tions, and funds from Educational Tax Credit donors.

Morales also said that all NMTI employees were paid on time in fiscal year 2018.

NMTI chief executive officer Agnes McPhetres said that NMTI has done a good job maintaining a clean audit and that this tells the board that it

has been keeping strict internal control. Board chair John Gonzales said that this presentation is good news for NMTI since it shows that the school enforces strict control and respects taxpayer funds.

Copies of the audit report will be sent to the CNMI Legislature and the Office of the Governor.

'My Hero' entries due tomorrow

By **MARC A. VENUS**
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REPORTER

Entries for the Commonwealth Health Corp.'s Crisis Counseling Program YUTU "My Hero" contest is due tomorrow, Friday.

Students from Kindergarten to 12th grade on Saipan are invited to recognize the most important person who taught them what it means to triumph over adversity.

Each student is asked to draw a picture or write a personal story about the person who helped them become more resilient after Super Typhoon Yutu, which hit Saipan and Tinian in October 2018.

Students from Kindergarten to Grade 5 are tasked to submit a drawing representing their hero, while students in grades 6-12 are required to submit a written story.

All entries are to be submitted to their respective school office and must have the following:

- All entries should be in original and in line with the theme "My Hero."

- An entry is to be completed by one student only.

- Entries are to be done on letter size paper (8.5" x 11").

- Written submissions are to be one page and in English.

- All submissions should

include the student's name, school, and grade level.

Three winners—one from elementary school, one from middle school, and one from high school—will be announced at the Resiliency Fest on Saturday at the Marianas Business Plaza.

As the first anniversary of Super Typhoon Yutu occurs this week, CCP staff are focused on promoting resiliency and strength in the community, including co-hosting the Resiliency Fest. CCP YUTU, "You, Us, Together, United," was created last year after Yutu's aftermath to provide resident on Saipan and Tinian with behavioral health services.

Over the past year, they have visited thousands of community members in their homes and villages to provide free, anonymous counseling, teaching coping strategies, and refer people to appropriate services as needed. CPC YUTU also recognizes the United Nations' International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, which celebrates people and communities around the world in their efforts to build more disaster-resilient communities.

For more information about the contest, contact CCP YUTU at (670) 286-0227 or send an email to ccpyutu@gmail.com.

JKPL to host Trunk-Or-Treat anew

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will be hosting the 8th Annual Community Halloween Trunk-Or-Treat on Thursday, Oct. 31, 2019, from 2:30pm to 5:30pm at the library's parking lot in Susupe.

Held every year in collabo-

ration with the organization Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, this popular free public event helps to promote and strengthen community partnership and engagement, fosters family bonding, and gives families an alterna-

tive activity to trick-or-treating door-to-door.

Dress up in your favorite costume and join the fun. This year the library will be sponsoring a Halloween contest for "Best Trunk" and "Best Recyclable Book Costume."

For more information, call the Joeten-Kiyu Public

Library at 235-7322/7323 or email cnmistatelibrary@gmail.com.

The library will be open briefly this Halloween from 10am to noon.

The library's parking lot will be closed to the public on Oct. 31, 2019, for the Trunk-Or-Treat Event. **(PR)**

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IT&E

PSS co-op students learn to build canoes with 500 Sails

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sailing proponent 500 Sails welcomed its first student yesterday, Kagman High School's Iverson Santos, at its boatyard in Tanapag, as part of a partnership with the Public School System's Cooperative Education program to revive the canoe culture in the CNMI.

Early this year, the non-profit participated in the PSS Co-Op Fair to invite children to join the 500 Sails team. KHS was one of the schools that invited 500 Sails to share its program with their students.

"I love the water," Santos said. "It is in my genes. It's in my genes to be here so, I'm excited to start."

Santos, along with other students who will be participating in the 500 Sails PSS Co-Op program, will help build canoes as part of the organization's mission to revive the canoe culture on the islands, especially by bringing it closer to the youth.

500 Sails instructor Joseph Torres provided a tour of the boatyard, and showed the four boats, one of which the students will help varnish, as part of their activity for the day.

Torres said the boats are

made with fiberglass, as opposed to the breadfruit tree wood used in the old days. He said this is because they do not want to kill trees, given the availability of other materials that they now can use.

April Repeki, also of 500 Sails, said that, as she was growing up, while there were a lot of traditional cultural stuff on the (Carolinian) side of her culture, there's not that much about the Chamorro

culture that her parents could teach them about.

"[Our] being involved in 500 Sails is a really big blessing," Repeki said. "[We learn] this part of the Chamorro culture where fishermen build canoes and go out into the lagoon and get food. This is why it is very important to us and to the community to take part."

Aside from the Co-Op partnership, 500 Sails also offers



Kagman High School's Iverson Santos shows off his timecard on his first day at the 500 Sails boatyard in Tanapag yesterday, where he will be learning about building canoes.

IVA MAURIN

canoe camps. Last August, five teens completed 500 Sails' Summer Canoe Camp,

in partnership with the Indigenous Affairs Office.

For more informa-

tion about 500 Sails, email info@500sails.org or visit their Facebook page (@500Sails).

Hillbroom allowed to testify at trial from Washington

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U. S. District Court for the NMI has granted the request of the two former lawyers of Junior Larry Hillbroom to question him during the trial on Saipan via contemporaneous transmission from Spokane, Washington.

Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona said the use of the court's ELMO system—a projector used in courtroom presentations—is acceptable so long as the jury is able to view Hillbroom via video teleconference at all times during his testimony.

Manglona said the two defendants—David J. Lujan and Barry J. Israel—will be responsible for the costs associated with Hillbroom's remote testimony, including lodging costs.

The judge said the parties must provide electronic or physical copies of any documents they seek to use during Hillbroom's testimony.

Hillbroom is suing Israel and Lujan, both of whom are his former lawyers, and his former trustee, Keith Waibel, alleging mismanagement of approximately \$90 million

that he inherited as heir of Larry Lee Hillblom, a co-founder and former owner of DHL Worldwide Express.

The jury trial in Hillbroom's lawsuit is currently set for Nov. 19, 2019.

The Vietnam-based Israel recently filed the request to take Hillbroom's testimony via contemporaneous transmission. Guam-based Lujan joined Israel's motion.

Hillbroom did not object to testifying remotely, but asked the court to impose safeguards.

Hillbroom lives in Idaho, which is more than 100 miles from Saipan.

Manglona found that the private location where Hillbroom can testify, as proposed by Israel, is appropriate because the time difference between Saipan and Washington State would make taking testimony at the nearest federal courthouse impractical.

Manglona said she must still adopt appropriate safeguards for testimony taken via contemporaneous transmission.

First, the judge said, the court must ensure that the remote location is able to transmit the testimony.

She said at least one week prior to trial, Lujan and Israel

must contact the clerk's office to arrange an equipment test with the court's Information Technology personnel.

Second, Manglona said, no person other than the employees necessary to operate the VTC system shall be present in the room with Hillbroom when he is testifying.

Manglona added that no person may be in communication with Hillbroom during his testimony, other than her and the examining attorneys.

Third, the judge said, Lujan and Israel must ensure that Hillbroom will have access to all documents that may be presented during the examination.

Hillbroom, a Palauan, is one of the four DNA-proven children of Hillblom. His name is spelled differently from that of Hillblom. The three other children are Jellian Cuartero, a Filipino; Mercedita Feliciano, a Filipino; and Nguyen Be Lory, a Vietnamese.

Hillblom died in a seaplane crash off Anatahan waters on a flight from Pagan to Saipan on May 21, 1995, leaving behind an estate worth approximately \$550 million. The bodies of the pilot and a business partner were found, but Hillblom's body was never recovered.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-19-036

MANNED SECURITY and ELECTRONIC MONITORING SERVICES

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director is soliciting competitive bids from qualified firms to provide Manned Security and Electronic Monitoring Services for various sites at CUC, Saipan, Tinian and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

Contractors must provide proof of "Indemnity Liability Insurance," specifically covering security workers assigned to CUC's compound. Coverage must be a minimum of \$200,000.00. The Contractor shall agree to and indemnify and hold CUC harmless from and against all liability, loss, damage or injury, and all cost and expenses (including attorneys' fees and costs of any suit related thereto) suffered or incurred by the Cooperative, arising from or related to Contractor's negligent performance under the contract.

Proponents shall provide a certification signed by a principal of the company stating that the company is currently in full compliance with all applicable CNMI and Federal Labor Laws and has been for the past Five (5) years. Proponents shall submit a listing of all of its employees (US & Foreign) with corresponding job titles and a certification of good standing from the CNMI Department of Labor. Failure of the company to provide the certification is grounds to reject the entire Bid.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-19-036, Security Guard Services", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST, Saipan Time) on October 25, 2019**. Late submissions of Bids will not be considered.

This Invitation for bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of Bid in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. All responses to this Invitation for bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the Proponent, awarded a contract.

All Proponents are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proponents due to lack of information or understanding of the Bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a Bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on October 11, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to John Mafnas, CUC Contracting Specialist via email address john.mafnas@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC P&S, Purchasing Technician, Senior - christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

WILLIAM GILMORE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Officer



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-19-040

Waste characterization and Disposal - CUC Saipan Power Plant No. 1 and Rota Power Plant

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified and experienced firms for the Waste characterization and disposal - CUC Saipan power plant 1 and Rota power plant, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Contractors are advised that the work will be carried out as a part of CUC response actions under the terms of Stipulated Order No.2 (SO 2).

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **\$100.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A mandatory **site visit and pre-bid meeting** is scheduled on **October 10, 2019 at 10:00am (ChST)** at CUC Power Plant 1 Administration Building, Lower Base, Saipan, to ensure that the contractors are fully aware of the work involved and familiarize with the site conditions. All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the plant site conditions in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or performance of work under the contract.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "IFB-19-040: Waste Characterization and Disposal - CUC Saipan Power Plant No. 1 and Rota Power Plant" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor Joeten Dandan, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than October 29, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

The bidder is required to submit a copy of his CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page - <http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm>. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on October 14, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Venugopal Pranhakara, Utility Coordinator/ ATMO via email address venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC P&S, Purchasing Technician, Senior via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Free medical mission in Koblerville this Sunday

The Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch) will be hosting a free medical mission this Sunday, Oct. 27, from 2pm to 6pm, at the Hannam Supermarket parking lot in Koblerville.

There will be free services such as blood sugar and blood pressure checks, facial cleansing, and massages.

PMCC will also be giving away 30 reading glasses as well as 75 bags of toiletries on a first come, first served basis. There will also be snacks and refreshments.

“This is part of the celebration of our 20th anniversary,” said church pastor Claire Javillonar. PMMC has been conducting free medical missions annually since 2012.

After Sunday, the next medical mission will be on Nov. 24 at the Minachom Atdao at Kili Beach in Susupe, for Susupe and San Jose villagers.

For more information, contact Javillonar at 789-7566. *(Iva Maurin)*

Zoning office closed today

The Saipan Zoning Office will be closed today, Oct. 24, 2019, from 7:30am to 4:30pm to conduct a professional development and training workshop for its staff. Regular office hours will resume on Monday,

Oct. 28, 2019, at 7:30am. *(PR)*

Free writing workshop

The fourth Marianas Writers’ Movement workshop on planning your novel is set for Friday, Oct. 25, 2019, from 3pm to 5pm at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library. This is a free writing workshop, open to the public ages 13 and older. The October prep writing workshops are for aspiring writers, with encouragement and support continuing through November during National Novel Writing Month, when you will write your novel (or memoir, or collection of stories or other book).

This project is part of the “Rekindling Marianas Narratives: Write Your Novel!” mini-grant program and is made possible by support from the Northern Marianas Humanities Council, a non-profit, private corporation funded in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities. *(PR)*

Resiliency Fest on Saturday

The Resiliency Fest is happening this Saturday, Oct. 26, at the Marianas Business Plaza. Admission is free.

Organized by the Lady Diann Torres Foundation, the festival, which will be from 5pm to 10pm, will feature The John Dank Show and local artists like Studio 29:11, Saipan Music & Dance Studio, Goddhy, Dagu Diggers, and Big

Jay Selepeo.

There will also be a distribution of relief goods. Crisis counselors will also be there. The foundation is also selling “resiliency shirts” for adults and children, as a fundraiser.

For more information on the Resiliency Fest, or to help LDTF, contact the foundation at (670) 235-5383. *(IM)*

DPS to host Halloween ‘haunted passage’

The Department of Public Safety, in collaboration with the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, the Department of Corrections, and the DPS Employee Association Inc., will be hosting a haunted passage way this Oct. 29.

The event, named “Terror on Tekken Street,” will be at the DPS Bureau of Motor Vehicles’ parking lot, right behind the Guma’ Hustisia courthouse in Susupe. Public parking is designated in front of the courthouse.

Entry is free and is open to the public. It will be from 6:30pm to 9pm. DPS advises the public to be cautious when out with children; to look both ways before crossing; to keep count of individuals when in groups, with one chaperone in front and behind the group; and to be aware of their surroundings when venturing into the passage. *(MAV)*

Military training in

Outer Apra Harbor

SANTA RITA, Guam—U.S. Naval Base Guam Security Forces will conduct a harbor security exercise today, Oct. 24, from 9am to 1pm in outer Apra Harbor. It is recommended the public, fishermen, and marine tour operators monitor the U.S. Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories. Boaters are encouraged to be aware of the exercise operations, but are free to travel the waterways. *(PR)*

SHRM meeting on Oct. 30

The Society for Human Resource Management NMI Chapter will have its general membership meeting on Oct. 30, 2019, at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan’s Charley’s Cabaret beginning at 11am. It will feature Public School System Cooperative Education program coordinator Brandon Nicholas and Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence executive director Maisie Tenorio. This meeting is open to the public.

The presentation includes a lunch buffet at the cost of \$20 for SHRM members and \$30 for non-members. Reserve your seat by contacting Penny Jones by email at penelope.jones@hyatt.com or Denise Montenegro at denise.montenegro@hyatt.com or by telephone at 323-5867/68. *(PR)*

Golf tournament

fundraiser for JKPL

The 4th Annual Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library Golf Tournament Fundraiser will take place on Sunday, Nov. 10, at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort’s west course. Game format is Low Gross and Double Peoria, 2-Person Scramble (Men and Women). Cost to participate is \$200 entry per team. All proceeds will help support the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library and its resource and collection development, circulation materials, and library programs. Last day to register is Thursday, Nov. 7, at 5pm. *(PR)*

Business Expo 2019 on Nov. 9

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will hold its newly re-instated Chamber Business Expo on Saturday, Nov. 9, from 9am to 4pm at the Saipan World Resort. The goal is for Chamber members to showcase their company and new products and services to the local market. To sign up to be an exhibitor:

1. Visit and download the application packet on the Saipan Chamber of Commerce website at www.saipan-chamber.com/events in the Events Page.

2. Complete and submit applications with payment to the Saipan Chamber of Commerce office on the third floor, Suite 315 of the Marianas Business Plaza or email to coordinator2@saipanchamber.com.


tor2@saipanchamber.com.

3. Registration is currently open and deadline for applications is Friday, Nov. 1, 2019, by 5pm.

Reservations for booths are on a first-come, first-serve basis. Contact Noelani McMahon at coordinator2@saipanchamber.com or call the Chamber office at (670) 234-7150. *(PR)*


Saipan to host terrestrial conservation conference

The 3rd Annual Marianas Terrestrial Conservation Conference & Workshop will be held on Nov. 18-20, at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in Garapan. Registration is free and open to the public, and will include presentations on terrestrial conservation, field trips and activities such as pre-conference proa rides and Mariana swiftlet field trip, and a lizard identification trip at American Memorial Park. To register, visit marianasterrestrialconservation.org. It also includes a birding trip, tree planting for Yutu recovery, Jeffrey’s Beach tour, and native limestone forest hike. For more information about the conference, or for donations (financial or in-kind) to help with organizational costs as well as to raise funds to enable students to travel to the conference to present their research, email Jill Liske-Clark at liskeclark.cnmidfw@gmail.com. *(PR)*



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-19-029

MAUI 4 WATER TANK DEMOLITION

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified contractors for the demolition of the Maui 4 Water Tank located in Sadog Tasi, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **\$100.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **October 9, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “**CUC-IFB-19-029 Maui 4 Water Tank Demolition**”, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 25, 2019**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bids shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier’s check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers’ questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI’s Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI’s Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 15, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Acting Drinking Water/Wastewater Manager, Yvonne Cabrera via email yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Technician, Senior via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO

Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN

Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-19-038

REPAIR OF OIL STORAGE TANKS – CUC SAIPAN AND ROTA POWER PLANTS

GARY P. CAMACHO

Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN

Purchasing Administrator

USCG airlifts injured crewmember from Midway Island



A Coast Guard HC-130 Hercules aircrew from Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point, working with U.S. Fish and Wildlife and the Hawaii Disaster Medical Assistance Team, delivers a 32-year-old Latvian crewmember from a Norwegian-flagged tank vessel to awaiting emergency medical services on Oahu, Oct. 21, 2019.

U.S. COAST GUARD/LT. JEFF HENKEL

HONOLULU—The U.S. Coast Guard, working with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Hawaii Disaster Medical Assistance Team, medically evacuated a 32-year-old Latvian crewmember of a Norwegian-flagged tank vessel from Midway Island

late Sunday.

“This case illustrates the value and importance of our partnerships with the refuge and DMAT,” said Lt. Diane French, a command duty officer with Joint Regional Command Center Honolulu. “Connecting mariners transiting the

vast Pacific with a higher level of medical care is vital to the safety of life at sea and one of our key missions.”

A Coast Guard HC-130 Hercules aircrew from Air Station Barbers Point arrived at Midway, embarked the crewmember, and transported him safely to Oahu for further medical transport to Queens Medical Center.

JRCC Honolulu watchstanders received Friday night a call from Rescue Coordination Center Stavanger, in Norway, reporting the mariner was experiencing a medical emergency aboard the 610-foot motor tanker *Leikanger*.

The vessel was 667 miles north of Midway at the time of the original call. The duty flight surgeon recommended the vessel crew make best speed to Midway Island to deliver

the crewmember for further transport by the Hercules crew with DMAT providing in-flight medical care to Honolulu. The crewmember was reportedly suffering from severe pain and numbness in his lower abdomen.

JRCC Honolulu watchstanders also contacted the U.S. FWS Midway refuge manager to coordinate a transfer. Due to the high volume of birds in the area, particularly albatross, it is necessary to land planes on Midway at night to limit the chance of bird strikes.

Watchstanders placed the vessel in a 12-hour communi-

cations schedule. At 5:50pm, the tanker arrived offshore of Midway and transferred the crewman by small boat transfer. The refuge manager provided local knowledge and recommended that due to the risks involved with the sea state outside of the reef, the best option was for the vessel crew to launch their rescue boat and the U.S. FWS small boat escort them to the pier inside the reef. Following the transfer, the *Leikanger* crew resumed their voyage, transporting gasoline.

The Hercules crew arrived just before 11pm and took the man aboard. They

arrived safely to awaiting emergency medical services at Air Station Barbers Point at 2:45am Monday.

JRCC Honolulu is located at the Coast Guard 14th District and has responsibility for search and rescue across 12.2 million square miles of the Pacific Ocean to include the main Hawaiian Islands, Guam, the CNMI, and American Samoa extending out in all directions.

The Coast Guard is the world's premier maritime search and rescue agency ready to answer the call for help, even in the vast and remote region of the Pacific Ocean. **(USCG)**



Pilots aboard an HC-130 Hercules airplane review charts and visual application on their electronic flight bags while en route to Oahu from Midway Island to medically evacuate a mariner, Oct. 20, 2019.

U.S. COAST GUARD/LT. JEFF HENKEL

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP20-CHCC/CGC/HTP-001

NEW SUBMISSION DEADLINE: November 01, 2019 TIME: 10:00 AM

“HEALTHY TRANSITIONS PROGRAM – OFFICE SPACE LEASE”

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)/INVITATION TO BID (ITB) FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP/ITB. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORAZON P. ADA
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW20-ITB-001

SUBMISSION DATE: November 12, 2019 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

“PAHONG ST. IMPROVEMENT PROJECT”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **October 28, 2019**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **November 5, 2019** to Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/s/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID
ITB20-CHCC/CGC/HTP-01

NEW SUBMISSION DEADLINE: November 01, 2019 TIME: 10:00 AM

“PROCUREMENT OF ONE (1) UNIT OFFICE VEHICLE – HEALTHY TRANSITIONS PROGRAM”

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)/INVITATION TO BID (ITB) FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP/ITB. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORAZON P. ADA
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID (ITB)
ITB20-CHCC-HIV-STD-001

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 15, 2019 TIME: 10:00 AM

“PROCUREMENT OF ONE (1) SPORT UTILITY VEHICLE (SUV) FOR PUBLIC HEALTH HIV/STD”

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)/INVITATION TO BID (ITB) FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP/ITB. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORAZON P. ADA
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID
ITB20-CHCC/ELC/BEH-001

NEW SUBMISSION DEADLINE: November 20, 2019 TIME: 10:00 AM

“BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH'S LABORATORY UNIT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT”

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)/INVITATION TO BID (ITB) FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP/ITB. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORAZON P. ADA
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP20-CHCC/CGC/HTP-002

NEW SUBMISSION DEADLINE: November 01, 2019 TIME: 10:00 AM

“HEALTHY TRANSITIONS PROGRAM – PROGRAM EVALUATOR”

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)/INVITATION TO BID (ITB) FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP/ITB. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORAZON P. ADA
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

Bualoi now out of the Marianas

By **MARC A. VENUS**
marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Typhoon Bualoi has finally left the Marianas.

Although the “All Clear” was declared for Saipan and Tinian last Monday, Alamagan, Pagan, and Agrihan were still under Tropical Storm Condition 2 through the early morning hours of Wednesday morning.

As of 2:15pm yesterday, the “All Clear” signal was declared for the three Northern Islands only yesterday, as Typhoon Bualoi continues to move northwest.

Bualoi continues to move northwest at 17 miles per hour and it is expected to make a turn to the north with a slight increase in forward speed through Thursday, based on information from the National Weather Service in Tyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center-State Warning Point.

Maximum sustained winds have decreased to 140 mph. Typhoon force winds extend outward from Bualoi’s center up to 40 miles, while tropical storm force winds extend outward from Bualoi’s center up to 140 miles.

Bualoi tracked north of

Saipan early Tuesday morning and passed the uninhabited Anatahan as it drifted north-

west, resulting in just damp weather on Saipan and Tinian. Shortly after passing the

CNMI, Bualoi intensified into a Category 4 typhoon and continued going just northeast of

Japan, which has already seen the aftermath of Super Typhoon Hagibis, which killed at least 70 people. Nagano in central Japan and Fukushima and Miyagi in the north were

among the hardest-hit areas.

The U.S. Coast Guard opened yesterday at 8am the ports of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to all commercial vessel traffic and cargo operations.

Marianas Creations hosts Thursday trivia league

Marianas Creations is now hosting a trivia league that meets every Thursday from 6pm to 9pm.

Every Thursday offers a mixture of different trivia quizzes, including picture and audio quizzes. Teams can be between one and four people, and interested people are welcome to join a team at the event.

Teams that make it to the top of each night’s leaderboard win a variety of prizes, including gift certificates to Marianas Creations, The Shack, and more. The scoring of each game of trivia includes double point rounds, final trivia, and more, ensuring a competitive game until the last moment. Victorious teams will gain points toward the league championship.

Hostess Laura Taylor, a renowned trivia enthusiast and protégé of *Jeopardy* host Alex Trebek, acts as trivia master during the event, keeping the questions interesting and the focus on fun.



Participants and sponsors of a recent Thursday trivia league have their picture taken at Marianas Creations.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

“Where else on island can you challenge your friends to a duel of...trivial knowledge?” she asked.

If you think you have what it takes to win the trivia league, join at Marianas Creations every Thursday.

Marianas Creations is located on Micro Beach Road next to Everest Kitchen and Bridge Capital LLC. They

can be reached on Facebook, Instagram, by phone 488-1924, or email sales@marianascrations.com. (PR)



COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

San Jose Village • P.O. Box 502149 • Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. Nos: (670) 234-7145/7146/6293/6245 • Fax No.: (670) 235-7147
Website: www.developcnmi.com



REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS 2020-CDA-01-RFQ

Closing Date: Wednesday, November 20, 2019 • **Time:** 9:30 a.m.

“CONSTRUCTION OF LOW-COST HOUSING UNTIS FOR CDA’S RENT TO OWN HOME”

Copies of the specifications may be picked up at the Commonwealth Development Authority’s independent contractor for A&E services, Taniguichi Ruth Makio Architects (TRMA) Office, Suite 204, M2M Building, Garapan Street, Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours (8:00 am to 5:00 pm) Monday thru Friday or by e-mail request to trma.cnmi@gmail.com. The package will also be available on CDA’s website at www.developcnmi.com

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/S/ VINNEY ATALIG-HOCOG
Acting Chairman,
CDA Board of Directors

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
Acting Director,
Procurement & Supply



Office of Vocational Rehabilitation OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

P.O. Box 501521
Navy Hill – Bldg. N2
Saipan, MP 96950



“Together We Can Build a Future”

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation under the auspices of the CNMI Office of the Governor will file an application with the USDA Rural Development for financial assistance on the following:

- 1) to retrofit and acquire a new official program vehicle, and
- 2) for professional capacity upgrade & replacement of technological equipment.

A public meeting for comments will be held at 5:00 PM on Monday October 29, 2019 at Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodation such as large print or sign language interpreter, are asked to call Elvira Seman at 322-6537/38 (voice) or 322-6549 (TTY), no later than October 24, 2019 at 4:30 PM.

Opinion

Hafa Adair!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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EDITORIAL

How old is too old to be president?

If Elizabeth Warren were to be elected president next year, she would be 71 on Inauguration Day. Joe Biden would be 77. Bernie Sanders would be 79.

In other words, if elected, any of the three leading candidates for the Democratic nomination would become the oldest person ever to begin the job, breaking the record set in 2017—by Donald Trump.

The candidates' age raises two questions. First, if any of them are elected, will their bodies and their minds be up to the task for the next four or eight years? The question has for the most part escaped serious examination, partly because it is borderline offensive to question an older person's fitness based on the number of birthdays rather than on any particular evidence of infirmity or decline. But it is probably avoided as well out of anxiety over what the answer may be. (It hasn't become a serious subject of discussion even in the aftermath of Bernie Sanders' recent heart attack.)

The second question has less to do with the candidates themselves than it does with us, and what Americans in general, and Democrats in particular, are feeling about the country.

Age has long seemed a natural fit with conservatism, and therefore with Republican candidates rather than Democrats. A maxim, attributed to various luminaries including Edmund Burke and the king of Sweden, teaches that a young person who is already a conservative has no heart and an older person who is still a liberal has no head.

Accordingly, Americans in the modern era have generally chosen old Republicans and young Democrats as their presidents.

Ronald Reagan, the icon of conservatism, was just shy of his 70th birthday and the oldest person to assume the presidency when he took the oath in 1980. Dwight Eisenhower was a grandfatherly 62 (his tenure was marked by a heart attack and a stroke). George H.W. Bush was 64. To their supporters they symbolized wisdom and experience.

Democrats, meanwhile, went for guys in their 40s—John F. Kennedy, Bill Clinton, Barack Obama. Their hallmarks were youthful vigor, can-do optimism—and overconfidence.

Kennedy brashly underscored the shift from Eisenhower's presidency to his own.

"Let the word go forth," he said, "from this time and place, to friend and foe alike, that the torch has been passed to a new generation of Americans."

Along with the septuagenarians, there is a young, brash and comparatively inexperienced generation of candidates in this year's Democratic field, but likely voters seem generally unimpressed with them so far.

The result is a debate among candidates with viewpoints shaped by 20th century experience. But they seem a bit out of time. Let the word go forth, they seem to be saying, that the generation of Americans born during or just after World War II is not giving up this torch until you pry it from their cold, dead hands.

(c) 2019 Los Angeles Times



Would everyone please shut up for 48 hours?

It's language I try not to use, but would everyone please shut up for a while?

How about two days? That's not too much to ask, is it? The accusations and finger-pointing are getting out of hand. And tiring. And depressing. And divisive.

Maybe the cable TV folks could do something to change the tone of our national discussion by showing only animal videos for a couple of days. Or maybe cooking shows.

How about temporarily canceling CNN and MSNBC panels about how crazy Donald Trump is and what a puppet of Vladimir Putin he is? (Not that both things couldn't be true.)

Maybe both networks could report some news—about something other than the Trump administration. BBC says there's news about Brexit. And I'm betting something is happening in South America and India that is worth my attention.

As for Fox News' Sean Hannity, Tucker Carlson, Lou Dobbs and Laura Ingraham, maybe they could tape their mouths shut for 48 hours. That would both improve the content of their programs and make them look less foolish defending Trump's ridiculous statements and ill-advised foreign policy decisions.

Oh, and Adam Schiff, could you please take a couple of days off and go to a beach in the Caribbean, promising not to utter a word in English during your trip?

I'd appreciate it if Hillary Clinton and Tulsi Gabbard could stop some of the unbecoming bickering for a couple of days. Hillary, what the hell were you thinking? And of course, Tulsi couldn't resist ratcheting up the rhetoric by firing back at Clinton.

The result was a wholly unnecessary fight that served nobody's interest—except the opponents of democracy and civility. Now, who could that be?

Acting White House Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney said there was a quid pro quo regarding Ukraine before he said that there was no quid pro quo.

By the way, do we all need to start learning Latin to understand cable television shows? Will the next CNN interview go something like this?

Erin Burnett: Welcome, Mr. Mulvaney. Quid pro quo?

Mulvaney: Yes, quo. No quo. Quid pro quo.

Burnett: Carpe diem.

Mulvaney: Et tu, Brute?

Burnett: In vino veritas.

Mulvaney: Nil desperandum.

Burnett: Caveat emptor. And thank you, Mr. Mulvaney.

I'm pretty certain I can't get 48 hours, but could we please have one full day when any time a reporter mentions the Kurds, he or she also has to mention "whey"? At least that

By **STUART ROTHENBERG**
CQ-Roll Call



might make me laugh.

I know, the slaughter of the Syrian Kurds is nothing to laugh or joke about. It's terrible. How dare I make light of something so horrible.

Excuse me, but could you lighten up for 24 hours? Instead of being offended by everything, talk about baseball, the beautiful fall weather, pumpkin pie or even HBO's "Succession," a really smart (and often funny) television show featuring a lead character who is a billionaire megalomaniac and narcissist with a corrupt family that runs a major media company.

I'd really like it if Trump could stop telling untruths for 48 hours—even if that means he has to do something to make sure he doesn't move his lips for two whole days.

I know it's unreasonable to ask the president to clean up his language and try to tell the truth for TWO WHOLE DAYS!!!!

That would be quite a challenge for anyone with such an extreme personality disorder, especially a narcissist who thinks everything in the universe revolves around him.

But try, Donald, please.

Maybe you could play board games with your children. Or revitalize the State Department. Or get some therapy.

I'd appreciate it if I could get a day or two without Rudy Giuliani. Just because, well, if you've seen Rudy recently, you know why.

I could almost wax poetic about HUD Secretary Ben Carson, who knows so little about his own department and is so busy keeping his head down that he has gone mute.

Thank you, Ben, wherever you are and whatever you are doing (probably picking out more new furniture for your office).

A little more than a year ago, during the final week of September 2018, I wrote a column titled "I'm just tired of it all." And I was.

Trump's presidency was draining and debilitating, full of

See **WOULD** on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

One year after Yutu, we are Knight Strong and we will rise



Dear Mount Carmel School family:

It was one year ago that our islands and our school were devastated by Super Typhoon Yutu, one of the worst storms in recorded U.S. history. But it was not the first time that had happened.

Fifty years prior to Yutu, Typhoon Jean wreaked havoc on Mount Carmel School, tearing down buildings, destroying classrooms, and breaking the hearts of the school's students, parents, faculty, and staff. But the school's founding fathers and mothers, led by Fr. Arnold Bendowski and the Sisters of the Mercedarian Missionaries of Berriz, pulled the school family together and with faith in God and faith in each other, they rebuilt the school, brick by brick, book by book.

Fifty years later, Super Typhoon Yutu wreaked similar havoc on the school. The library and the main office were hit hard, the cafeteria was blown away, roofing was ripped off, and classrooms and offices were flooded. But inspired by the example set forth by Fr. Arnold and MMB sisters after Typhoon Jean, our school family pulled together, with hope, determination, and faith, in God and each other. We, too, are rebuilding our beloved school, brick by brick, book by book.

In the aftermath of that devastation, we came together with the mantra: We are Knight Strong. We will rise!!!

And risen we have.

We cleaned and repaired classrooms and key parts of campus. We also secured generators and water supplies to provide power and running water. As a result, we were able to reopen the school and resume classes merely weeks after the typhoon. We also got creative in meeting the needs of our students and their families

School leaders show up in force to clean and repair Mount Carmel School. From left to right: AlumKnight Charles Cepeda, school president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, school board chair Vicente "Ben" Babauta, school board secretary Joe Pangelinan, and school board treasurer Will Hunter. They gathered in front of the iconic grotto for Mother Mary, which was built 50 years ago by members of the AlumKnight Class of 1968 in the aftermath of Typhoon Jean.

with free meals, uniform accommodations, and financial assistance. And once classes resumed, we proceeded to repair other parts of campus, including common areas and our gymnasium.

None of this would have been possible without the generous support of so many individuals and entities, including Bishop Ryan P. Jimenez, our board of directors led by chair Vicente "Ben" Babauta, our leadership team, faculty, staff, parents, families, friends, supporters, federal and local government agencies, Knights, and AlumKnights. To all of you, we owe a huge debt of gratitude.

To be sure, much more work still lies ahead and recovery efforts continue. We continue to work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the CNMI Public School System's Federal Programs Office, the Office of the Governor, the Saipan Mayor's Office, our insurance company, and various donors to secure additional funding for remaining repairs. With this funding, we will be able to continue work on the gymnasium, replace books and instructional materials, and repair our library, to name a few projects.

Indeed, while much work has been done, much more work re-



MCS
Mount Carmel School's historic auditorium, where the CNMI Covenant and Constitution were signed, was destroyed by Super Typhoon Yutu.



MCS
Mount Carmel School's historic auditorium was recently reopened with temporary repairs. The school's board of directors and leadership team continue to work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency on plans for a more permanent structure in the future.

mains. However, as we have been saying, with faith in God and faith in each other, we will rebuild, brick by brick, book by book.

We are Knight Strong. We will rise!!!

Galvin Deleon Guerrero, Ed.D.

President, Mount Carmel School Inc.

WOULD

From Page 10

mean-spirited accusations, name-calling and controversy.

But here's the problem: Things have only gotten worse since then. I'm more "tired of it all" a year later—tired of the daily controversies and the president's outlandish tweets.

I didn't think that was even possible.

Each morning I get out of bed knowing that the new day will only be worse than the day before. More chaos. More lies. More chatter in the media. More cable news panels with people saying the same things they said the day before.

More lunacy from the president of the United States who—whether at campaign rallies, press conferences or Q&A's with the media as he's leaving the White House—seems unable to put two coherent sentences together. More wins for Russia and Putin.

But no matter Trump's shortcomings (and they are many), my request for a national timeout isn't partisan. Both sides could use one, as could the country. And a bourbon. Or two. Just give me a couple of days to recover.

Then you can all return to the chatter, chaos, mind-numbing arguments, "what about" retorts and sometimes vulgar, belittling and demeaning attacks and counterattacks.

Please.

Community supports Ukulele Festival






Due to the tremendous support from the local community and Korean ukulele performers, the Marianas Ukulele Festival, held last Saturday, Oct. 19, 2019, at the Marianas Business Plaza, was a huge success. The fifth annual festival featured professional ukulele masters Blues Lee and his wife, Vivian Kim, along with the Yeong Ju Teacher Ukulele Ensemble from Korea. Local performers included Marvin and Jay, Emi Peter-Palican, Joe Limes, Alana'ia, Da Kine, Jose Carreon, Juan and Keoni Ichihara, Hui Ukulele Club (Marianas High School), the Monkeya Brothers, Selepeo Sisters, Saipan Community School, and the Ukituki Band.

Heartfelt appreciation goes out to this year's festival partners: Marianas Visitors Authority, T Galleria DFS, Island Im-

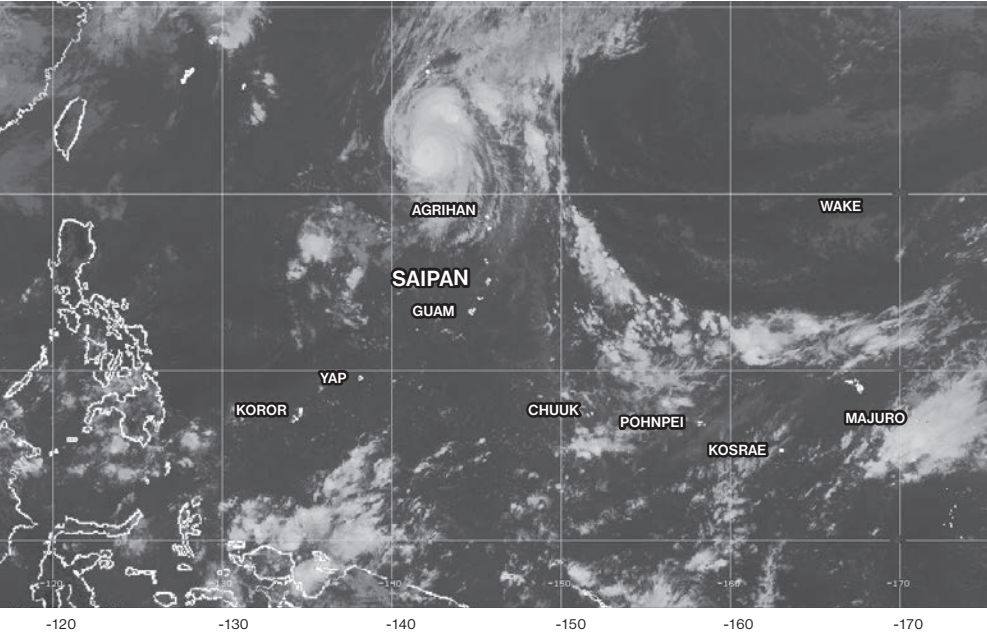
age & Motion, Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture, Island Training Solutions, IT&E, Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan, PDI, Robert T. Torres Law Office, Triple J Saipan, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Burger Comer Magliari, *Marianas Variety*, KKMP, The Shack, Joeten Daidai Foundation, Marianas Business Plaza, Hertz Rent a Car, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Marianas Medical Center, MARPAC Distributors, Kinpachi Restaurant, Tropical Leisure Sports, Rep. Marco T. Peter, R& M Printers, and Blues Lee.

Ten ukuleles were raffled off at the Festival, and 20 scholarships for free ukulele lessons were given away. For more information and performance videos, visit www.marianasukulelefestival.org. (PR)

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
									
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 20 mph.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
87°	77°	87°	77°	88°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:09 AM, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

As Typhoon Bualoi increases its distance a ridge of high pressure is building over the local area. This high will keep showers to a minimum through tonight. Models continue to show a circulation passing south of Guam by Thursday night. Convergence north of and in the wake of the circulation will cause mostly cloudy skies, isolated showers and thunderstorms Thursday through Saturday.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Chuuk	Partly Sunny	86° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	88° / 76°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	88° / 76°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Windy	59° / 54°	
Beijing	Rain	63° / 39°	
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	84° / 75°	
Honolulu	Rain	55° / 46°	
London	Cloudy	61° / 52°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	93° / 64°	
Manila	Mostly Sunny	91° / 79°	
Melbourne	Showers	72° / 52°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°	
New York	Sunny	69° / 50°	
Osaka	Rain	72° / 63°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	64° / 48°	
Busan	Rain	73° / 57°	
Rome	Showers	73° / 61°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	72° / 59°	
San Francisco	Sunny	82° / 54°	
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	73° / 46°	
Tokyo	Rain	64° / 61°	
Washington, DC	Sunny	70° / 47°	



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:03 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.51	
10:04 AM	LOW TIDE	0.00	
5:07 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.90	
11:14 PM	LOW TIDE	0.77	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:10 AM	5:51 PM
Friday	6:10 AM	5:51 PM
Saturday	6:10 AM	5:50 PM
Sunday	6:11 AM	5:50 PM
Monday	6:11 AM	5:49 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	1:58 AM	2:58 PM	-
Friday	2:59 AM	3:45 PM	-
Saturday	3:59 AM	4:32 PM	-
Sunday	4:59 AM	5:18 PM	-
Monday	5:58 AM	6:05 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2019							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:57am	Daily	UA174	7:30am	8:07am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4	UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4	7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7	7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily	7C3402	9:30am	3:10pm	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
7C3403	4:45am	8:35am	1, 2, 3, 5, 7	OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
7C3403	5:00am	8:30am	4	OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3403	5:00am	8:50am	6	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 6, 7
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	4, 7	7C3404	10:40pm	4:10am+1	3, 5
7C3401	4:10pm	8:10pm	1, 2, 3, 5, 6				
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)				HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1	JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4	JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6	3U8645	8:10pm	3:10am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:50pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA192/174	9:45pm	8:07am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/174	10:25pm	8:07am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	UA184/174	11:30pm	8:07am+1	2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1	UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7	UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (*The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.*)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily	1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily	1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily	1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily	1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily	1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily	1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily	2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily	2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily	2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
				2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
				2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
				2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
				2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

For toymaker Hasbro, trade wars are no fun

PAWTUCKET, R.I. (AP)—Shares of Hasbro plunged Tuesday after the company revealed that the trade war is wreaking havoc on its supply chain and creating confusion among customers for its toys.

The company said price hikes may be on the way for consumers as it offsets rising costs.

Hasbro CEO Brian Goldner said the company has seen multiple dates for the rollout of “List 4” tariffs, which include toys, models and puzzles. Those tariffs, which had been postponed in August over fears that they would affect the holiday shopping season, are now slated to roll out on Dec. 15.

Hasbro is the latest company to detail its struggles with President Donald Trump’s tariffs — even though he has delayed some of them.

Hasbro says the shifting dates led to cancelled orders in the third quarter and the company was unable to meet demand as it adjusted operations to accommodate companies that buy its toys and games.

“Since the administration began discussing tariffs, we have outlined the ripple effect they would have on our business,” Goldner said. “We’ve spoken about the changing order patterns in the U.S., whether or not tariffs are ultimately enacted. In the third quarter, the threat of and the implementation of tariffs in certain instances impacted our shipments and our ability to fully meet demand.”

Other levies, including a 25% tariff on \$200 billion worth of goods, have already been enacted in September and hit game sales for Hasbro. Nerf sales are also being af-



In this Nov. 9, 2018, file photo Operation made by Hasbro is displayed shelves in the expanded toy section at a Walmart Supercenter in Houston.

ected, Goldner said.

The company said that if the next round of tariffs goes into effect in December, customers will feel it.

“We would take pricing to, again, protect our gross mar-

gin and those price increases would be passed along to consumers,” Goldner said.

Jay Foreman, CEO of Basic Fun, says he’s experiencing something similar to Hasbro. He says retailers don’t want to risk sending goods to the U.S. that could arrive after the Dec. 15 deadline, so they’re putting the burden on suppliers. Basic Fun is scrambling to produce

and ship its toys by the deadline and retailers will just pay the supplier as they need the toys.

“We are going to have to stretch every penny of cash flow,” said Foreman, adding that he will likely have to delay holiday bonuses to workers. He’s also worried retailers will cancel later orders.

Hasbro has already reduced

the number of products it gets from China, which had hovered above 80% as recently as 2012. Goldner said the company is trying to bring that down to less than 50% by the end of next year.

The toy maker posted third-quarter net income of \$212.9 million, or \$1.67 per share. Even removing one-time costs, which brought per-share earnings to \$1.84, the company fell 62 cents short of projections, according to a survey of industry analysts by Zacks Investment Research.

Its revenue of \$1.58 billion is also below the \$1.73 billion industry analysts had expected.

Shares of Hasbro Inc., based in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, tumbled \$20.14, or 16.8%, to close Tuesday at \$100.02.

WeWork co-founder pushed aside in reported SoftBank takeover

NEW YORK (AP)—WeWork is reportedly accepting a financial rescue package that hands control of the company to its top investor and pushes aside co-founder Adam Neumann and his grandiose vision of changing the world through communal working.

Japanese tech conglomerate SoftBank would take a controlling stake in the company under the deal to infuse WeWork with more than \$5 billion in urgently needed capital, the Wall Street Journal reported Tuesday, citing unnamed sources. Neumann would walk away with nearly \$2 billion to sever most of his ties to the company.

WeWork has been scrambling for cash since its attempt to enter the stock market floundered last month, a stunning fall from grace for a company that has until recently been considered one of the most highly valued start-ups in the U.S.

The deal throws WeWork a lifeline as it attempts to turn around a money-losing business model that had repelled potential Wall Street investors. But it comes at a steep cost for SoftBank, which al-

ready owns one-third of WeWork and has sunk \$10 billion into the company.

SoftBank’s takeover would value WeWork at \$8 billion, a fraction of the \$47 billion valuation SoftBank had assigned the company in its last round of financing in January, the Journal reported. A person familiar with the deal, who spoke on condition of anonymity because there was no official announcement, confirmed the accuracy of the report.

The contours of the deal mean SoftBank now has more money invested in WeWork than the company is worth.

“This is where the math gets confusing because they’ve put in more money than the valuation of the company,” said Larry Perkins, founder and CEO of SierraConstellation Partners, a management advisory firm that specializes in helping companies navigate difficult turnarounds. “That would be the question going forward: Is this good money after bad money or a preservation of their investment?”

SoftBank will pay Neumann \$1 billion for his shares in the company and extend him

\$500 million in credit to help him repay a loan from J.P. Morgan., the Journal reported. SoftBank also will pay Neumann a \$185 million consulting fee.

Neumann stepped down as CEO under pressure last month, but he retained a controlling share of the company, making his approval necessary for any deal. He will step down from WeWork’s board of directors but retain a small stake in the company.

“He gets a golden helicopter that lets him get out of this, and that is just remarkable,” Perkins said.

The SoftBank deal eases WeWork’s immediate cash crunch, but the company faces a long road ahead to address its deeper challenges, namely finding ways to curtail its staggering spending.

WeWork mostly makes money by leasing buildings and subdividing them into office space that it sublets on a short-term, flexible basis.

Since the failed IPO, WeWork has taken steps to shore up that core business and move away from the meandering direction it had taken under Neumann.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

2 bills with tax cuts advance through NC Senate panel

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—Republicans leading the North Carolina Senate are advancing two additional tax-related bills largely gleaned from the vetoed state budget. Only one got full bipartisan support. The Senate Finance Committee voted on Tuesday for measures, which are scheduled for floor votes on Wednesday. A bill receiving widespread backing would increase standard deductions for individual income tax filers next year by another \$750 to \$1,500—essentially raising the zero-tax bracket. The measure also directs companies like Amazon to collect sales taxes on consumers buying products they offer through third-party retailers. Democrats opposed the other measure that would reduce the corporate franchise tax rate by one-third by 2021, saying \$1 billion in cumulative lost revenue through mid-2024 could cover other needs. Republicans say franchise taxes are essentially duplicative property taxes on businesses.

Nike CEO Mark Parker to step down in January

NEW YORK (AP)—Nike said Tuesday that its longtime CEO Mark Parker is stepping down early next year. He will be replaced by board member John Donahoe, who formerly ran e-commerce company eBay. Parker will become executive chairman of the board. Nike’s sales have been on the rise as the company focuses on selling more of its swoosh-branded sneakers online and on its apps. The company’s first quarter earnings last month soared past expectations. But Nike has also been plagued by scandals recently. Three weeks ago, renowned track coach Alberto Salazar was banned from the sport for four

years by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency for running experiments with supplements and testosterone that were bankrolled and supported by Nike, along with possessing and trafficking testosterone. Nike announced that it was shutting down its elite Oregon Project track and field program overseen by Salazar in the wake of the scandal. Parker said in a TV interview with CNBC Tuesday that the scandal had “absolutely nothing” with him leaving the top job and that succession plans have been months in the making.

Fighting suit, Exxon says it is accounting for climate rules

NEW YORK (AP)—Exxon Mobil says it has prepared itself for the impact climate change regulations will have on its finances, denying allegations from New York’s attorney general that the energy giant has deceived the public about how stricter emissions rules will affect its business. Attorney Ted Wells said in a trial that began Tuesday that former Exxon CEO Rex Tillerson created a robust, effective system to account for increasing climate regulations in 2007. The state has accused Exxon Mobil Corp., which is based in Irving, Texas, of misleading investors about its financial health as governments impose stricter regulations to combat global warming. “Exxon Mobil did nothing wrong. Absolutely nothing wrong,” Wells said. “The evidence will show that the allegations in the complaint are bizarre and twisted and not connected to the reality of the truth.” Exxon has not always applied the appropriate regulation costs when estimating the increasing price of climate rules on its carbon-intensive business, said Kevin Wallace, an attorney arguing for New York’s Attorney General Letitia James.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW 26,788.10 -39.54 .15%	S&P 2,995.99 -10.73 0.36%	NASDAQ 8,104.30 -58.69 0.72%
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EXCHANGE RATES

Hong Kong Dollar	7.8418	Russian Ruble	63.5711
Australian Dollar	1.4614	Singapore Dollar	1.3636
British Pound	0.7780	South Korean Won	1151.30
Canadian Dollar	1.3103	Swiss Franc	0.9890
Chinese Yuan	6.9588	Taiwan Dollar	30.0982
Euro	0.8989	Thailand Baht	30.2575

Nation

Trump likens House impeachment inquiry to ‘a lynching’



In this Sunday, April 22, 2018, file photo, a statue of a chained man is on display at the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, a new memorial to honor thousands of people killed in racist lynchings, in Montgomery, Ala.

AP

WASHINGTON (AP)—Stirring up painful memories of America’s racist past, President Donald Trump on Tuesday compared the Democratic-led impeachment inquiry to a lynching, a practice once widespread across the South in which angry mobs killed thousands of black people.

The use of such inflammatory imagery to lash out at the House investigation into Trump’s dealings with Ukraine triggered an outcry from Democratic legislators, some mild rebukes but also some agreement from the president’s Republican allies and condemnation from outside the Washington Beltway. It also led to the unearthing of decades-old comments from some Democratic lawmakers, including now-presidential candidate Joe Biden, compar-

ing the process of impeaching President Bill Clinton to a lynching.

Trump has spent recent days pressuring Republicans to give him stronger support in countering the impeachment investigation.

His tweeted suggestion that they “remember what they are witnessing here—a lynching” came a day after Trump said the GOP needs to “get tougher and fight” against the fast-moving inquiry into whether he tried to withhold U.S. military aid until Ukraine’s government agreed to investigate Biden and his son.

The White House said Tuesday that Trump was not comparing impeachment to “one of the darkest moments in American history.” Spokesman Hogan Gidley said Trump sent the tweet to point out what he feels

is his continued mistreatment by the news media.

Trump, who has been complaining about unfairness in the impeachment process being led by House Democrats began his tweet: “So some day, if a Democrat becomes President and the Republicans win the House, even by a tiny margin, they can impeach the President, without due process or fairness or any legal rights.”

Fighting back Tuesday night, Trump’s reelection campaign tweeted out a 1998 video of then-Sen. Biden talking about President Bill Clinton’s impending impeachment and saying, in part, “History is going to question whether or not this was just a partisan lynching.”

Earlier in the day, Biden referred to Trump’s lynching comparison as “abhorrent”

and “despicable.” Biden later tweeted that his own “lynching” reference 21 years ago “wasn’t the right word to use and I’m sorry about that.” But, he added: “Trump on the other hand chose his words deliberately today in his use of the word lynching and continues to stoke racial divides in this country daily.”

During his presidency, Trump has repeatedly sought to advance his political interests by unleashing racially inflammatory language.

Over the summer, he told four Democratic congresswomen of color to go back to their “broken and crime-infested” countries, although the four are U.S. citizens. Earlier in his presidency, Trump unleashed a firestorm by saying there were “very fine people” on both sides of a 2017 white suprema-

cist rally and counterprotest in Charlottesville, Virginia, that resulted in the death of an anti-racism demonstrator.

The reference to a lynching struck a deep, painful chord for black people whose relatives died in racially motivated killings.

Malinda Edwards, whose father was forced to jump off an Alabama river bridge in 1957 by Klansmen who heard that he had smiled at a white woman, said Trump was making light of the horror experienced by victims.

“Either he’s very ignorant or very insensitive or very racist and just doesn’t care,” Edwards, 66, of Dayton, Ohio, said of the president. Her father’s name is now among those on a memorial in Montgomery, Alabama, honoring more than 4,000 lynching victims.

Blackout Round 2? Californians brace for possible outage

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Hundreds of thousands of California residents braced for another possible power outage as the state’s two largest utilities warned that a return of dangerous fire weather could prompt shut-offs across the state.

The warning from Pacific Gas & Electric about a possible blackout Wednesday in Northern California prompted a feeling of resignation among residents and business owners and renewed rushes to stock up on emergency supplies.

“I think it’s not panic per se, just ‘Eh, we gotta do this AGAIN?’” said Kim Schefer, manager of Village True Value Hardware in Santa Rosa.

Schefer was busy Tuesday directing customers to gas cans and batteries as they prepared for what many see as a costly, frustrating new routine.

It would be the second blackout in two weeks for much of the state.

PG&E cut power to more than 2 million people across the San Francisco Bay Area in rolling blackouts from Oct. 9-12, paralyzing parts of the region in what was the largest deliberate blackout in state history. Schools and universities canceled classes and many businesses were forced to close.

PG&E gave 24-hour notice Tuesday to 189,000 customers, or roughly a half-million people, that it could begin a new round of precautionary shut-offs in 16 counties mostly in the Sierra foothills and north of the San Francisco Bay Area. The decision will be made Wednesday morning and the blackouts would begin Wednesday evening and last about 48 hours, the utility said.

Meanwhile Southern California Edison said it could cut power later in the week to about 132,000 customers in six counties.

The utilities say it’s concerned that winds forecast to top 60 mph (97 kph) could throw branches and debris into power lines or topple them, sparking wildfires.

At Murphy’s Irish Pub in Sonoma, co-owner Dermot Coll groaned at the thought of another power outage. The watering hole kept its doors open during the last 48-hour shut-off, but it wasn’t easy because generator power to the walk-in coolers kept failing.

“We made it work, but it was a headache,” Coll said. “We kept saying, ‘Is this even worth it?’”



ACROSS THE NATION

Jimmy Carter hospitalized after fall at Georgia home

ATLANTA (AP)—Former President Jimmy Carter had another fall at his home in Plains, Georgia, fracturing his pelvis and going to the hospital for treatment and observation, a spokeswoman said Tuesday. Carter Center spokeswoman Deanna Congilio described the fracture as minor. Her statement said that the 95-year-old was in good spirits at the Phoebe Sumter Medical Center after falling on Monday evening, and that he was looking forward to recovering at home. This is the third time Carter has fallen in recent months. He first fell in

the spring and required hip replacement surgery. Carter fell again Oct. 6 and despite receiving 14 stitches, traveled the same day to Nashville, Tennessee, to rally volunteers and, later, to help build a Habitat for Humanity home. Carter is the oldest living former president in U.S. history. He and 92-year-old Rosalynn recently became the longest married first couple, surpassing George and Barbara Bush, with more than 73 years of marriage.

Pelosi’s prescription for high drug prices clears committee

WASHINGTON (AP)—A powerful House panel has ap-

proved House Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s legislation to lower prescription drug prices for seniors and working-age people. The Ways and Means committee voted Tuesday along party lines, moving the bill closer to floor action. It fulfills a long-sought Democratic goal of letting Medicare negotiate directly with drugmakers. But Republicans are overwhelmingly opposed, and the Pelosi bill has little chance unless President Donald Trump gets behind the idea. As a candidate, Trump backed Medicare negotiations. But his relationship with Pelosi has broken down over the House impeachment probe. A bipartisan bill in the Senate would limit

pharmaceutical price hikes, without giving Medicare bargaining power. The House bill is being named after the late Maryland Rep. Elijah Cummings, a Democrat who sought to engage Trump on drug prices.

Body of missing Alabama girl found; 2 being charged

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP)—Investigators searching through garbage found the body of a 3-year-old girl who was missing more than a week, and authorities are charging two people with murder, police said Tuesday. Birmingham Police Chief Patrick Smith told a news confer-

ence that the remains of Kamille McKinney were located in a trash bin that had been taken to a landfill. Police had been watching garbage deposits from a certain part of the city, he said. Smith said police were obtaining murder warrants against two people previously identified as persons of interest in the case, 39-year-old Patrick Devone Stallworth and his 29-year-old girlfriend, Derick Irsha Brown. Lawyers for both have said they are innocent. The child, known as “Cupcake” to relatives, vanished while outside a birthday party on Oct. 12. Investigators know of no link between the suspects and the girl or her family, Smith said.

Asia

Kim orders South's buildings at resort in North be destroyed

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Un ordered the destruction of South Korean-made hotels and other tourist facilities at the North's Diamond Mountain resort, apparently because Seoul won't defy international sanctions and resume South Korean tours at the site.

Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency said Wednesday that Kim had visited the resort and described its facilities as "shabby" and lacking national character. The report said Kim criticized North Korea's policies pushed under his late father as too dependent on the South.

Kim's comments came during a prolonged freeze in relations with Seoul and are a major setback to liberal South Korean President Moon Jae-in, who met Kim three times last year while expressing ambitions to reboot inter-Korean economic engagement, which looks increasingly less likely amid faltering nuclear negotiations between Washington and Seoul.

South Korean officials held back direct criticism on Kim's remarks, saying they need to take a closer look at the North's intent.

Lee Sang-min, spokesman of Seoul's Unification Ministry, said the South will "actively defend the property rights of our people" and plans to accept any proposed talks by North Korea over



In this undated photo provided on Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2019, by the North Korean government, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, center, visits the Diamond Mountain resort in Kungang, North Korea.

the facilities. He didn't offer a specific answer when asked whether the South could do anything to stop the North if it begins to tear down the facilities unilaterally.

Tours to Diamond Mountain were a major symbol of cooperation between the Koreas before the South suspended them in 2008 after a North Korean guard fatally shot a South Korean tourist there.

Seoul can't restart inter-Ko-

rean economic activities without defying sanctions against Pyongyang, which have been strengthened since 2016 when the North began speeding up its nuclear development.

Kim instructed officials to entirely remove the "unpleasant-looking facilities" built by the South after discussing the matter with South Korean officials and construct "new modern service facilities our own way that go well with the

natural scenery of Mt. Kumgang," the KCNA said.

"(Kim) said that the buildings are just a hotchpotch with no national character at all, and that they were built like makeshift tents in a disaster-stricken area or isolation wards," the agency said.

"He said that due to the mistaken policy of the predecessors who tried to get benefits

without any efforts after just offering the tourist area, the mountain was left uncared for more than ten years ... He made a sharp criticism of the very wrong, dependent policy of the predecessors who were going to rely on others when the country was not strong enough."

South Korea's government and companies have built

Thailand bans use of paraquat and other toxic farm chemicals

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand's government agreed Tuesday to ban the use of three farming chemicals widely regarded as dangerous to human health.

The government's National Hazardous Substances Committee voted to put the herbicides paraquat and glyphosate and the insecticide chlorpyrifos in the category of banned chemicals, automatically barring their use under existing law.

The ban takes effect Dec. 1. Industry Ministry Deputy Permanent Panuwat Triyangkulsri said the Agriculture Ministry would establish what to do with remaining stocks of the chemicals, taking into consideration the effects on farmers and sellers.

The ban, proposed by the Agriculture Ministry, had met with strong opposition from some farmers groups and academics, who argued that the chemicals were not unacceptably dangerous and banning their use would drive up farmers' costs significantly.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Health An-

utin Charnvirakul, who took office in July with the installation of a newly elected government, had said earlier this month he would resign if the chemicals were not banned.

Prokchol Ousap, coordinator of the Thailand Pesticide Alert Network, said that Tuesday's passage of the ban hinged on political support that was a reflection of public sentiment. She said that bipartisan support for studying the potential problems of the chemicals was crucial, as well as a rare example of an issue all sides could agree on. The network campaigned for banning the chemicals, publicizing studies that found residues of the chemicals on fruits and vegetable sold to consumers.

The use of paraquat, especially, has been sharply debated worldwide. Farm workers are at particular risk from the toxic chemical, which can cause immediate death through ingestion as well as chronic health problems from other contact.

The European Union has banned its use, but it is still

about a dozen tourist facilities in the Diamond Mountain area to accommodate the tours that began in 1998, including hotels, restaurants, spas, a concert hall and a golf course. North Korea said it froze and confiscated all South Korean properties at the resort in 2010 after blaming Seoul for the continued suspension in tours.

In a summit last September in Pyongyang, Kim and Moon vowed to restart South Korean tours to Diamond Mountain and normalize operations at an inter-Korean factory park in the North Korean border town of Kaesong, voicing optimism that U.S.-led sanctions could end and allow such projects.

Kim raised the subject again during his New Year's speech this year, saying that Pyongyang was ready to restart the projects "without any precondition" while making a nationalistic call for stronger cooperation between the Koreans.

However, the projects remain shelved amid deadlocked nuclear negotiations between Washington and Pyongyang that have failed to produce a breakthrough that would justify an easing of sanctions.

The North in recent months suspended virtually all diplomacy and cooperation with the South while demanding that Seoul breaks away from ally Washington and restart inter-Korean economic activities.

popular in many countries. In Southeast Asia, paraquat was banned by Vietnam in 2017, and Malaysia in March announced a total ban on paraquat starting Jan. 1 next year.

The herbicide brand Roundup, which has glyphosate as its active ingredient, has recently been in the news because of lawsuits from thousands of plaintiffs in the United States contending it causes cancer. Bayer, the German chemical company that owns the brand, says studies have established that the weed killer is safe, but several U.S. courts have ruled otherwise.

In August, however, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said it would no longer approve labels warning glyphosate is known to cause cancer. It acted after California required warning labels on glyphosate products because the International Agency for Research on Cancer has said it is "probably carcinogenic." The EPA disagreed, saying its own research showed the chemical poses no risks to public health.

Duterte cuts short Japan trip due to 'unbearable' spine pain

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte is cutting short his trip to Japan due to "unbearable pain" in his spinal column caused by his fall during a motorcycle ride last week, his spokesman said Tuesday.

Duterte attended Japanese Emperor Naruhito's enthronement ceremony in Tokyo on Tuesday, at times using a cane and appearing to stand stiffly. In other photos sent by an aide to the media in Manila, the 74-year-old president appears to be in a light mood as he, his daughter and an aide extend their fists forward in a symbolic gesture associated with Duterte.

Presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo said Duterte would fly back to the Philippines later Tuesday and see his neurologist Wednesday, but assured the public that the president's health was not worrisome.

"The palace announces that the president will cut short his

trip to Japan due to unbearable pain in his spinal column near the pelvic bone as a consequence of his fall during his motorcycle ride," Panelo said in a statement. "While this was unforeseeable, the public can rest assured that there is nothing to worry as regards the physical health and condition of the president."

As a result, Duterte was to miss a banquet for the Japanese emperor that was instead to be attended by his daughter, Sara Duterte, who is mayor of Davao city, the Dutertes' hometown and political bailiwick in the southern Philippines.

Duterte will also skip another banquet to be hosted on Wednesday by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, with whom he has nurtured close ties. The president was originally scheduled to fly back to the Philippines on Thursday.

An avid rider of big motorcycles in his younger days, Duterte sustained bruises and

scratches when he fell off his parked motorcycle last Thursday in the sprawling presidential palace complex in Manila, but Panelo said then that the president's minor injuries would not affect his schedule.

Duterte said last year that he suffers from "perpetual pain" due to a spinal injury he sustained in a motorcycle accident many years ago. He has also acknowledged using Fentanyl, an opioid used to treat chronic pain that can also be used as a recreational drug.

A lack of regular medical bulletins on the president's health has sparked sporadic speculation about the state of his health, especially when he failed to appear in public for days in recent times.

When Duterte did not show up in public for more than a week in August, Panelo explained that the president was busy reviewing documents he needed to sign but stressed he was healthy because he even managed to bike around in Davao.

World

Boris Johnson inches toward securing Brexit but delay likely

LONDON (AP)—For a brief moment Tuesday, Brexit was within a British prime minister's grasp.

Boris Johnson won Parliament's backing for the substance of his exit deal but lost a key vote on its timing, a result that inches him closer to his goal of leading his country out of the European Union — but effectively guarantees it won't happen on the scheduled date of Oct. 31.

European Council President Donald Tusk tweeted that

because of the vote he would recommend that the other 27 EU nations grant Britain a delay in its departure to avoid a chaotic no-deal exit in just nine days.

The good news for the prime minister was that lawmakers — for the first time since Britons chose in 2016 to leave the EU — voted in principle for a Brexit plan, backing by 329-299 a bill to implement the agreement Johnson struck with the EU last week.

But minutes later, legislators

rejected his fast-track timetable to pass the bill, saying they needed more time to scrutinize it. The vote went 322-308 against the government.

Tuesday's votes plunge the tortuous Brexit process back into grimly familiar territory: acrimonious uncertainty.

Without speedy passage of the bill, Britain won't be able to make an orderly exit from the bloc on Oct. 31, the central vow of Johnson's three-month-old administration.

Looking on the bright side,

Johnson hailed the fact that “for the first time in this long saga this House has actually accepted its responsibilities together, come together, and embraced a deal.”

“One way or another we will leave the EU with this deal to which this House has just given its assent,” he said — though he also said the government would “accelerate” preparations for a no-deal outcome because of the uncertainty.

Johnson had hoped to push

the legislation through the House of Commons by Thursday. But he said after the defeat that he would “pause” the bill until the EU had decided whether to agree to delay Britain's departure.

On Tuesday night, Tusk tweeted that he would recommend that the bloc grant Britain's request for an extension to the Oct. 31 deadline. He did not say how long a delay he would recommend, although the U.K.'s request was to postpone exit until Jan. 31.

That request came grudgingly from Johnson last week to comply with a law passed by Parliament ordering the government to postpone Brexit rather than risk the economic damage that could come from a no-deal exit.

Any delay will still require the agreement of all of the

other 27 EU member states, and they are deeply weary of the long-running Brexit saga. French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian told French lawmakers Tuesday that he sees “no justification” at this stage for a further delay.

But they also want to avoid the economic pain on both sides of the Channel that would come from a chaotic British exit.

Earlier, Johnson had said he might call a vote on holding a snap general election if Parliament blocked his plans — in the hopes of breaking the political deadlock over Brexit that has dragged on as lawmakers have squabbled over the country's departure terms. But he's likely to wait to hear from the EU on the delay request before deciding whether to push for an election.



Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson gestures as he speaks in the House of Commons in London during the debate for the EU Withdrawal Agreement Bill, Tuesday Oct. 22, 2019.

Russia, Turkey seal power in northeast Syria with new accord

ANKARA, Turkey (AP)—Russia and Turkey reached an agreement Tuesday that would cement their power in Syria, deploying their forces across nearly its entire northeastern border to fill the void left by President Donald Trump's abrupt withdrawal of U.S. forces.

The accord caps a dramatic and swift transformation of the Syrian map unleashed by Trump's decision two weeks ago to remove the American soldiers.

U.S. troops in Syria fought five years alongside Kurdish-led forces in northeast Syria and succeeded in bringing down the rule of the Islamic State group there at the cost of thousands of Kurdish fighters' lives. Now much of that territory would be handed over to U.S. rivals.

The biggest winners are Turkey and Russia. Turkey would get sole control over areas of the Syrian border cap-

tured in its invasion, while Turkish, Russian and Syria government forces would oversee the rest of the border region. America's former U.S. allies, the Kurdish fighters, are left hoping Moscow and Damascus will preserve some pieces of their autonomy dreams.

Meanwhile, the Americans are stumbling out of Syria in a withdrawal that has proved chaotic, its extent and goals seeming to shift on the fly as they grasp to keep some influence on the ground.

In the latest hitch, Iraq's military said Tuesday the U.S. troops coming out of Syria do not have permission to stay in Iraq, contradicting U.S. Defense Secretary Mark Esper's statement a day earlier that they would remain there to fight the Islamic State group. Esper has also spoken of keeping some troops in eastern Syria to protect oil fields held

by the Kurds.

Trump ordered the U.S. troop pull-out on Oct. 7 with little consultation with advisers and in the face of heavy criticism, even by Republican allies. It opened the way for Turkey to launch a long-threatened invasion of northeast Syria two days later to drive out the U.S.-allied Kurdish fighters. Vowing to get American soldiers out of the region and its “endless wars,” Trump has said he sees no problem with Russia and Turkey taking over as power brokers.

The new accord was reached by Presidents Vladimir Putin of Russia and Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey, after six hours of negotiations as they pored over maps of Syria in the Black Sea resort of Sochi.

“I believe that this agreement will start a new era toward Syria's lasting stability and it being cleared of terrorism. I hope that this agreement

is beneficial to our countries and to our brothers in Syria,” Erdogan said.

Under the 10-point deal, Kurdish fighters have 150 hours starting at noon Wednesday to withdraw from almost the entire northeastern border from the Euphrates River to the Iraqi border.

Russian and Syrian government forces would move in immediately to ensure the Kurdish fighters pull back 20 miles (30 kilometers) from the border. When the deadline expires on Oct. 29, joint Russian-Turkish patrols would begin along a 6-mile (10-kilometer) wide strip of the border.

The exception would be the region around the town of Qamishli at the far eastern end of the border, which has some of the densest Kurdish population. Russian and Turkish officials did not immediately say what the arrangement would be there.

Venezuelans buy gas with cigarettes to battle inflation

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Motorists in socialist Venezuela have long enjoyed the world's cheapest gasoline, with fuel so heavily subsidized that a full tank these days costs a tiny fraction of a U.S. penny. But the economy is in such shambles that drivers are now paying for fill-ups with a little food, a candy bar or just a cigarette.

Bartering at the pump has taken off as hyperinflation makes Venezuela's paper currency, the bolivar, hard to find and renders some denominations all but worthless, so that nobody will accept them.

Without cash in their wallets, drivers often hand gas station attendants a bag of rice, cooking oil or whatever is within reach.

“You can pay with a cigarette,” said Orlando Molina, filling up his subcompact Ford Ka in Caracas. “Heck, it's no secret to anyone that it goes for nothing.”

Gas is so dirt-cheap that station attendants don't even know the price. Emptyhanded drivers get waved through, paying nothing at all.

This barter system, while perhaps the envy of cash-strapped drivers outside the country, is just another symptom of bedlam in Venezuela.

The South American nation of roughly 30 million people is gripped by a deepening political and economic crisis. People live with a nagging feeling that anything

from violent street protests to a massive power failure could throw their lives into chaos at any moment.

More than 4 million Venezuelans have fled the country in recent years, escaping low wages, broken hospitals, failing basic services and lack of security.

The International Monetary Fund says inflation is expected to hit a staggering 200,000% this year. Venezuela dropped five zeros from its currency last year in a futile attempt to keep up with inflation. Soaring prices quickly devoured the new denominations.

The smallest bill in circulation, 50 bolivars, is worth about quarter of a U.S. penny. City buses and even banks don't accept it, arguing it would take such a thick wad of bills to pay for even the most modest items that it wouldn't be worth the trouble. The largest bill, 50,000 bolivars, equals \$2.50.

Venezuela, which sits atop the world's largest oil reserves, was once rich. But the economy has fallen into ruin because of what critics say has been two decades of corruption and mismanagement under socialist rule.

President Nicolás Maduro's hold on power is under challenge from opposition politician Juan Guaidó, who has the backing of the United States and more than 50 other countries that contend Maduro's re-election in 2018 was crooked.

Focus

The crowd hurled potatoes that thudded on the sides of the hulking U.S. armored vehicles. “What happened to Americans?” one man shouted in English up at the sole U.S. soldier visible on the back of a vehicle. The soldier stared silently straight ahead, away from the show of fury.

It was yet another indignity in a U.S. withdrawal that has been carried out over the past two weeks with more haste and violence than expected—and which may now be partially reversed.

The turmoil was only in part because President Donald Trump’s Oct. 13 order to leave was so abrupt. It also seemed there had been little U.S. preparation for how to deal with a subsequent invasion by Turkey, though Ankara had been threatening it for months. And when it did strike, Turkey hit more widely across northeastern Syria than anticipated and was startlingly aggressive, seemingly trying to shove U.S. soldiers out of its way. Turkish artillery fire and Turkish-backed fighters came dangerously close to three American positions, U.S. and Kurdish officials said.

On Monday, a U.S. convoy was passing down an avenue in the Kurdish-dominated city of Qamishli, apparently on the way out of Syria, when it caught the brunt of residents’ anger and frustration at the American military that was once their closest ally and was now abandoning them.

“Like rats, America is running away,” one man shouted in Arabic at the vehicles, shown in a video put out by the Kurdish news agency.

One armored vehicle, its American flag flying on the back, reversed down the street and popped onto the sidewalk, apparently searching for a way around the angry men stomping toward it, jabbing their fingers in the air and shouting insults.

The withdrawal, Trump says, aims to get American troops out of the Mideast and “endless wars,” but decisionmakers have stumbled repeatedly over how much really to pull out.

Some U.S. forces are still in eastern Syria, helping Kurd-

assault was expected to target a block of territory in the center of the border where the U.S. and Turkey had been trying to work out a compromise “safe zone” arrangement.

Senior Pentagon officials said repeatedly that there was frequent communication with the Turks to avoid accidents on the ground and in the air. But one U.S. official with knowledge of the ground said Turkey’s actions were unilateral and potentially “dangerous to coalition forces and civilians.” The official spoke

took precautions before firing to prevent harm to the Americans and ceased fire upon “receiving information” from the U.S. military.

But the U.S. official cast doubt on that, saying the American post would have seen Kurdish fire and gone on alert.

Kobani was a scene of the first major battle to drive out IS in 2014, making it a symbol of U.S.-Kurdish cooperation against the militants. Capturing Kobani would have made it possible for Turkey to link up its territories it holds to the

learned that they (the Turks) likely intend to expand their attack further south than originally planned and to the west.”

At the same time, the Kurds announced they had worked out a deal with Russia for the Syrian government’s military to deploy in border areas to protect them against the Turkish offensive.

For a brief moment the U.S. troops seemed to stall. They waited in the flashpoint town of Manbij and strategic Kobani until Syrian forces backed by Russia arrived. It was a

“The situation on the ground is deteriorating rapidly,” the official said. An hour later, the official confirmed the U.S. troops pulled out of one U.S. base.

Then came another dramatic brush with the Turkish forces.

Some U.S. troops had begun leaving Lafarge, a deserted cement factory that housed a large coalition and Kurdish fighters base, about 50 kilometers (35 miles) south of Kobani, according to an official from the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces official and the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a war monitor.

Word got around, prompting Turkish-backed fighters to advance toward the site. The American official told the AP that the fighters “came very close” to the base and “put U.S. forces on the ground directly at risk.”

The Americans sent aircraft flying overhead in a “show of force” and contacted the Turkish military to protest, the U.S. official said. The U.S. troops then left Lafarge. The Syrian Kurdish fighters clashed with the approaching Turkish-backed fighters but were vulnerable because of its desert location so they retreated, the SDF official said. He spoke on condition of anonymity in order to discuss details of the conflict.

The next day, an American warplane hit a section of Lafarge believed to include an ammunition depot to destroy supplies and prevent them from falling into others’ hands. The coalition explained the strike as a routine measure.

But the SDF official was livid. “The Americans had fled before the confrontation,” he said.

‘AMERICA IS RUNNING AWAY’ Syrian withdrawal turns chaotic

By SARAH EL DEEB and LEE KEATH
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ish fighters protect oil fields. Defense Secretary Mark Esper said Monday he was discussing keeping them there. He also said the withdrawing troops will deploy in neighboring Iraq to fight the Islamic State group. But on Tuesday, Iraq’s military said the troops did not have permission to stay in Iraq.

Trump surprised even his own military on the ground when he agreed to remove U.S. soldiers working with Kurdish-led forces near the border in an Oct. 6 phone call with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Three days later, Turkey launched its offensive with heavy bombardment along the frontier.

For the American troops, it had not been clear how far the Turkish offensive would go, but they were promised they were out of harm’s way. The

on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to brief reporters.

It quickly became clear Turkey was more aggressive than expected. Two days into the offensive, just after 9 p.m. Turkish artillery fired near a well-identified U.S. observation point on a hill outside of the town of Kobani, 70 kilometers (44 miles) west of that zone.

The Turkish military said it was responding to Kurdish fire coming from a position about a kilometer (0.6 miles) away from the post. It said it

west with newly captured areas to the east.

The Pentagon confirmed the incident and said it warned Turkey to avoid actions that could cause defensive reaction. No troops were injured but the Americans left the outpost.

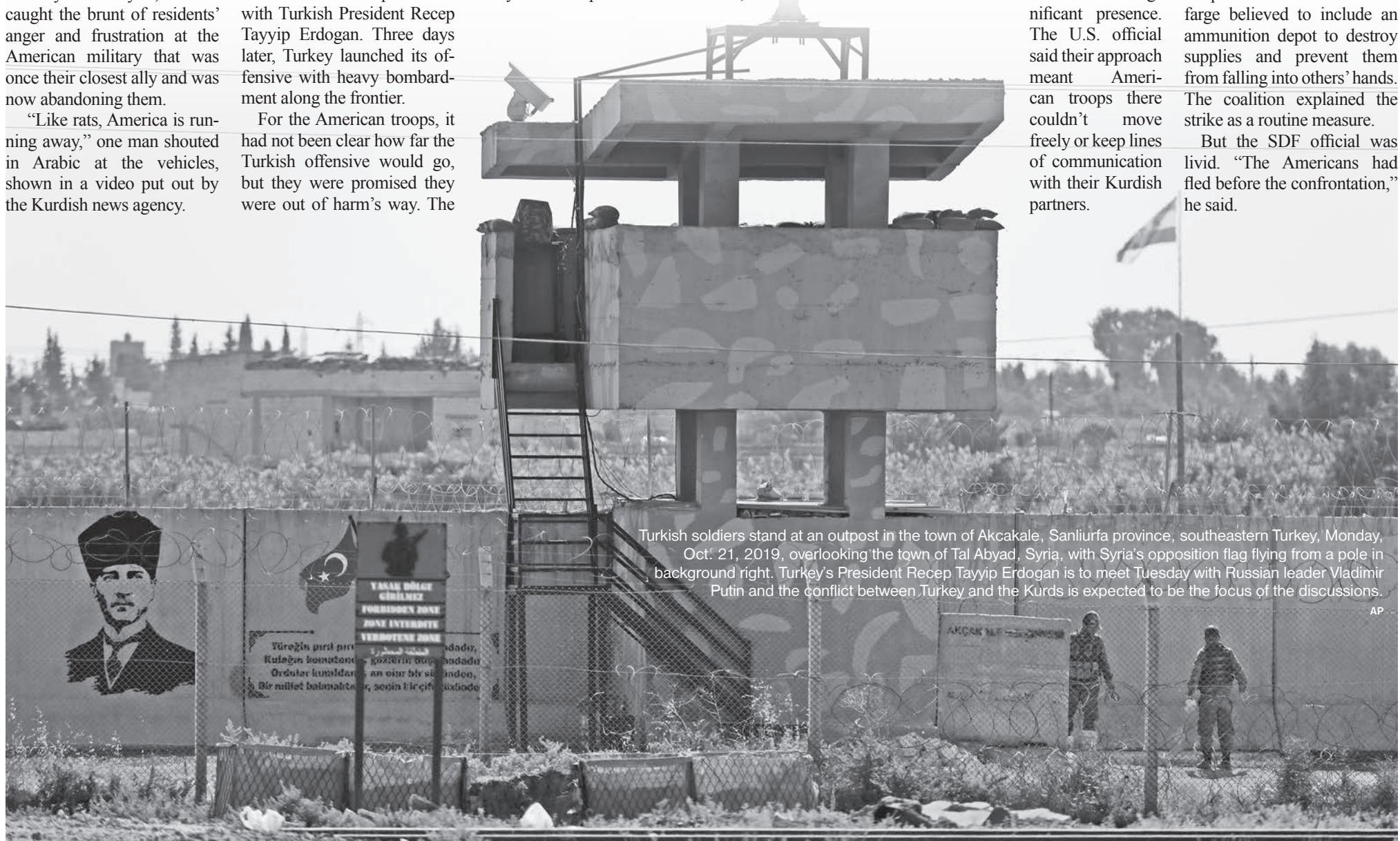
“They (the Turks) created the effect they wanted. We moved out of there tonight,” the official told the AP in a text message at the time.

Two days later, Trump ordered all troops out of Syria. Esper told CBS Face the Nation, “In the last 24 hours we

clear move to put the brakes on the Turkish expansion.

Then, Turkish-backed Syrian militias got too close. They deployed on a major highway, erecting checkpoints and intercepting vehicles, including one carrying a Kurdish politician, whom the fighters killed in a widely circulated video.

Moving fast in armored vehicles provided by Turkey, the fighters advanced toward Ein Issa, a town near the highway that was the administrative center for the Kurdish forces and where the U.S. had a significant presence. The U.S. official said their approach meant American troops there couldn’t move freely or keep lines of communication with their Kurdish partners.



Turkish soldiers stand at an outpost in the town of Akcakale, Sanliurfa province, southeastern Turkey, Monday, Oct. 21, 2019, overlooking the town of Tal Abyad, Syria, with Syria's opposition flag flying from a pole in background right. Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is to meet Tuesday with Russian leader Vladimir Putin and the conflict between Turkey and the Kurds is expected to be the focus of the discussions.

AP

Environment

By BETTINA BOXALL
LOS ANGELES TIMES

In a move that would boost water deliveries to San Joaquin Valley agriculture and Southern California cities, federal fishery agencies are weakening decade-old endangered species protections for some of the state's most imperiled native fish populations.

The rollback — coming a year after President Donald Trump targeted the regulations in a memo — rewards Central Valley agribusiness interests that are some of the president's strongest California supporters. To critics, it highlights the extent to which the Trump administration has injected politics into federal oversight of the nation's leading environmental laws.

The actions also put California Gov. Gavin Newsom, a leader of the Trump resistance on many environmental matters, in a politically fraught position — since California's biggest and most powerful water agencies want the state to go along with the Trump moves.

The fish protections partially govern operations of the giant federal and state pumping plants in the Northern California delta that help supply more than half the state's population with drinking water and fill irrigation canals stretching across millions of acres of cropland.

The massive water exports have upended the delta's natural hydrologic rhythms and helped push native fish, such as the delta smelt and winter-run Chinook salmon, to the brink of extinction.

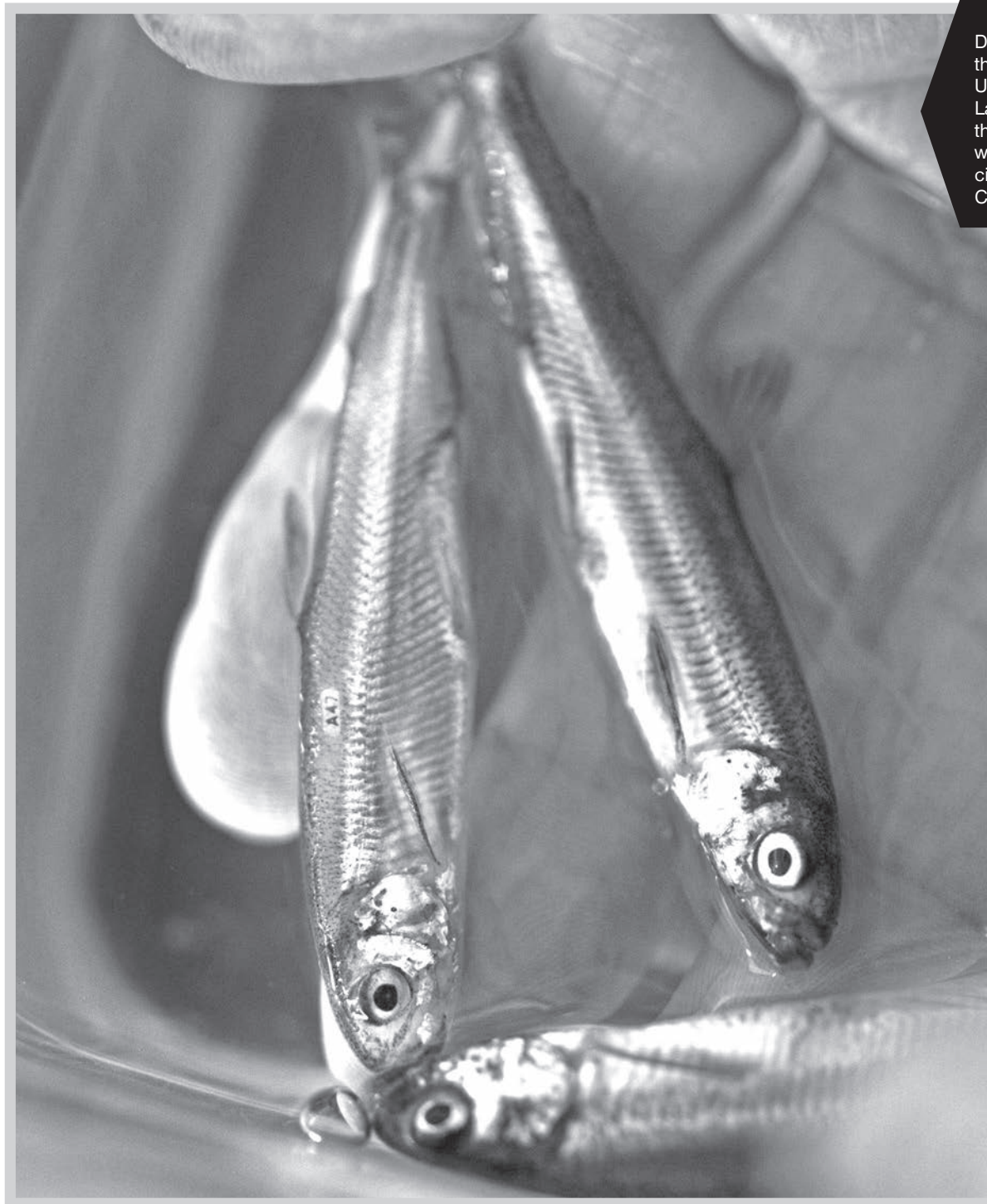
The tension between water supply and environmental protection in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta east of San Francisco has fueled more than two decades of legal and political conflict, with no end in sight.

Environmentalists, who successfully challenged similar rollbacks under President George W. Bush, are expected to go to court again to try to block the Trump administration rules, which would likely take effect in January.

"Given the level of political interference and the junk science that has been used ... it would be very unsurprising if these were not challenged and eventually overturned in court," said Doug Obegi, an attorney with the Natural Resources Defense Council, which led the legal fight against the Bush-era rules.

Two fishery agencies, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service, were in the process of updating endangered species protections adopted in 2008 and 2009 when Trump's 2018 memo directed them to develop plans to revise or rescind regulations that impeded western water deliveries.

Then-Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke also ordered agencies to devise ways to maximize water deliveries from the federal Central Valley Project, which supplies delta water to valley growers, including the sprawling Westlands Water District. Ryan's successor at Interior, David Bernhardt, is a former lobbyist-lawyer for Westlands who personally argued an appeals case challenging salmon protections.



AP
Delta smelt kept alive in hatcheries like these fish photographed in 2015 at the UC Davis Fish Conservation and Culture Lab in Byron, Calif., may be all that's left of the species. Federal fishery agencies are weakening decade-old endangered species protections for the smelt, winter-run Chinook salmon and other fish.

will increase the average May 1 levels of Lake Shasta, the Central Valley Project's biggest reservoir, to preserve cold water releases necessary to maintain salmon-friendly temperatures in the Sacramento River.

As for how the revisions would affect water deliveries, Souza said he could not put a number on it. The goal "was for us to find flexibility in providing water supply when it did not conflict with fishery conservation. We struck that balance."

Flexibility, real-time monitoring of the imperiled fish and dropping the existing seasonal pumping limits are all changes sought by Westlands and the Metropolitan Water District. They and other water users have bitterly complained about cuts to their water deliveries resulting from existing endangered species protections.

The same interests successfully lobbied Newsom to veto a bill that would have incorporated those protections in state regulations.

Although Souza argued that the revisions provide safeguards equal or better than existing requirements, the salmon opinion acknowledges that the new operating rules will adversely affect listed species and their habitat, particularly in severe drought years, when low flows and warm water are likely to kill large numbers of winter-run salmon eggs.

"This decision weakens all of the existing federal rules to protect Bay-Delta salmon runs. We've seen this movie before," said John McManus, president of the Golden State Salmon Association. "It looks like this administration is trying to shut us down again — permanently."

The rollback increases pressure on the Newsom administration to adopt stronger delta protections under the state endangered species act.

"If the Newsom administration fails to fight this flawed water plan, the next drought may very well wipe California salmon off the map," said Noah Oppenheim, executive director of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations.

But if the governor sides with conservation groups, he could alienate urban and farm districts that are some of the most influential players in the contentious world of California water.

Lisa Lien-Mager, deputy secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency, said state officials were reviewing the lengthy federal documents, which were released Tuesday morning.

"California is, and will continue to be, a leader in the fight for clean air, clean water and endangered species," she said. "We will evaluate the federal government's proposal, but will continue to push back if it does not reflect our values."

Trump administration is weakening endangered species protections for delta smelt and salmon

Despite pressure from Washington, scientists with the marine fisheries service in July submitted a 1,123-page report, called a biological opinion, that found the proposed pumping increases would likely jeopardize the continued existence of four species — endangered winter-run Chinook salmon, threatened spring-run Chinook and threatened Central Valley steelhead, as well as endangered Southern Resident killer whales that eat salmon.

The so-called "jeopardy finding" would have made it difficult to significantly ramp up deliveries from the delta. Two days after the opinion was submitted, Paul Souza, the regional U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service official who is coordinating the salmon and delta smelt reviews, pulled the document and assembled a new team to rework it.

The salmon opinion signed Monday dropped the jeopardy findings. A separate smelt opinion prepared by the fish and wildlife service also con-

cluded that the proposed changes in delta operations would not jeopardize the continued existence of the smelt, which have all but disappeared from the delta, their only home.

Souza said the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, which runs the Central Valley Project, agreed to a number of changes in reservoir and pumping management that cleared the way for the no-jeopardy findings.

"There's been a lot of change, a lot of negotiation since June that allowed us to address the concerns that were raised originally," he said Monday.

Water users welcomed the change. "Today's action builds on President Trump's campaign commitment to help solve the state's water supply shortages," said Dan Keppen, executive director of the Family Farm Alliance.

Jeffrey Kightlinger, general manager of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, said the revisions were overdue.

"Undoubtedly there are times when fish need greater protections,

and pumping must be reduced. ... There are also times when public water agencies can safely divert supplies when the populations are out of harm's way," he said. "While this creates some uncertainty about our future supplies, it is without question a better approach."

Under the new rules, Souza said delta pumping restrictions would be based on real-time monitoring of where smelt and migrating salmon are swimming in the delta, rather than the seasonal prescriptions contained in the current regulations.

Reclamation teams in boats would monitor smelt location several times a week and pumping would be curbed if the tiny fish are at risk, he said. Similarly, an increase in the number of salmon caught at the pumps would trigger pumping limits.

Additionally, Souza said the reclamation bureau has agreed to invest in a conservation hatchery for delta smelt; will monitor turbidity and other delta conditions that smelt favor; and

Life & Style

Verizon offers free year of Disney Plus in swipe at Netflix

Verizon is offering new and current customers a free year of Disney's new video streaming service.

The offer announced Tuesday is worth nearly \$84, based on \$6.99 monthly subscription fee for the Disney Plus service, which debuts Nov. 12. It extends to certain new and existing unlimited 4G and 5G customers at Verizon, as well as the vast majority of new home-internet customers.

The promotion will potentially give millions of people free access to a highly anticipated streaming service that will feature acclaimed films from Disney, Pixar, Marvel, Star Wars, National Geographic and popular TV series, such as "The Simpsons."

Disney Plus plans to release more than 25 original series and 10 original films and documentaries in its first year, including a remake of "Lady and the Tramp."

The promotion is the latest volley in an escalating attack on Netflix, which has amassed 158 million subscribers since launching its streaming service 12 years ago. Although it remains by far the largest and best known streaming service, there are concerns that its heyday may be nearing its end as Disney, Apple, AT&T and Comcast prepare to enter the fray with well-funded and, in most cases, cheaper alternatives.

Netflix's stock has lost about a

third of its value since hitting its peak price 16 months ago. The shares shed 3% Tuesday after the Verizon announcement.

Other streaming services are also offering free introductory periods in an attempt to ensure early exposure to a big audience.

Apple is offering a free year to its new streaming service, scheduled to debut Nov. 1, to anyone who buys an iPhone, iPad or Mac computer.

Comcast plans to give away

its upcoming Peacock streaming service to its cable-TV customers. And AT&T, which will launch HBO Max next year, today throws in HBO free for wireless customers on unlimited plans. Netflix also teams up with T-Mobile to offer free service to its streaming service.

Apple also is charging only \$5 per month for its service in an attempt to undercut Netflix, whose most popular plan costs \$13 per month. (AP)

Lori Loughlin, other parents charged again in college scheme

BOSTON (AP)—"Full House" actress Lori Loughlin, her fashion designer husband and nine other parents faced new federal charges Tuesday in a scandal involving dozens of wealthy parents accused of bribing their children's way into elite universities or cheating on college entrance exams.

A grand jury in Boston indicted the parents on charges of trying to bribe officials at an organization that receives at least \$10,000 in federal funding. In this case, they're accused of paying to get their children admitted to the University of Southern California.

The charge of conspiracy to commit federal program bribery carries a maximum sentence of up to five years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000. Prosecutors are pressuring those who have pleaded not guilty in the college admissions scandal to acknowledge their guilt.

A total of 35 wealthy and celebrity parents have been charged in the scheme that showed how far some will go to get their children into top universities like Stanford and Yale.

Some parents are accused of paying admissions consultant William "Rick" Singer to falsely portray their

children as star athletes and then bribe college sports officials to get them admitted as recruited athletes. Others are accused of paying Singer to help cheat on their children's SAT and ACT exams.

Singer has pleaded guilty and agreed to work with investigators in hopes of receiving a more lenient sentence.

Along with the new conspiracy charge, Massachusetts real estate developer John Wilson also was indicted on two new counts of substantive federal programs bribery. Prosecutors said Wilson paid Singer \$1 million in hopes of paying bribes to

get two of his children into Stanford and Harvard.

It's the second time prosecutors have added new charges for parents pleading not guilty in the case. In April, they added money laundering to the initial charges of fraud and conspiracy.

U.S. District Attorney Andrew Lelling said the latest charges stem from an ongoing investigation. In a statement, he said the new indictment will further his goal "to hold the defendants fully accountable for corrupting the college admissions process through cheating, bribery and fraud."

Judge allows Chicago suit against Jussie Smollett to proceed

CHICAGO (AP)—A federal judge on Tuesday refused to dismiss Chicago's lawsuit against former "Empire" actor Jussie Smollett.

U.S. District Virginia Kendall's ruling means that Chicago's suit that seeks to recoup \$130,000 that city officials say the police department spent investigating Smollett's claim that he was a victim of a racist and homophobic attack in January can proceed.

Full Coverage: Jussie Smollett

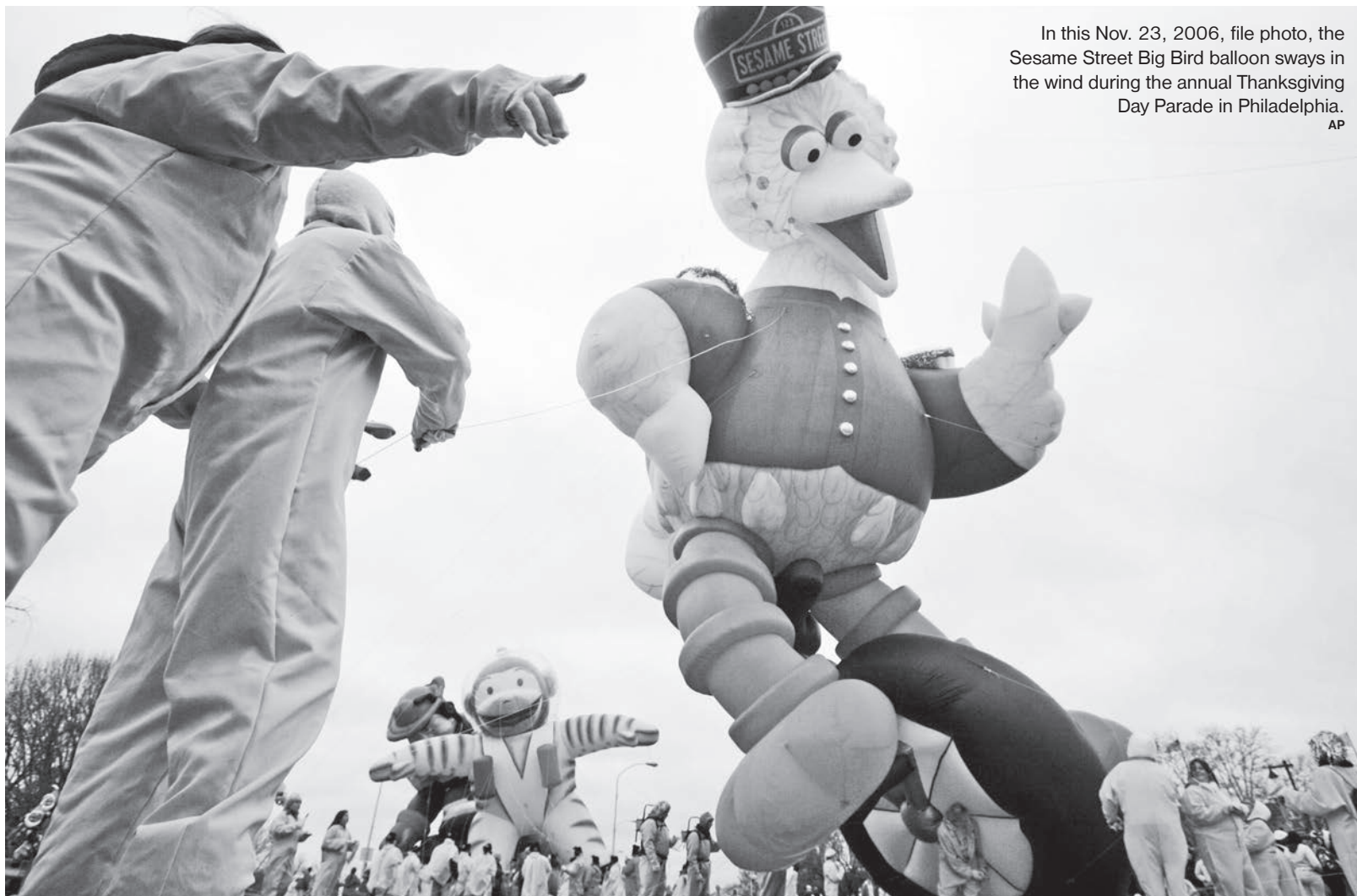
The motion by the former "Empire" actor's attorneys was a long-shot because their argument boiled down to the contention that Smollett shouldn't be required to reimburse the police department because he couldn't have known how much time and money would be spent investigating his allegations.

The police conducted an exhaustive investigation that included nearly 1,900 hours of overtime as they looked into Smollett's claim that he was beaten by two masked men on a downtown Chicago street in January and that they used racist and homophobic slurs and looped a noose around his neck before fleeing.

For days, detectives scoured the neighborhood for witnesses, analyzed dozens of videos from surveillance cameras on the street, on buildings and inside taxi cabs, and interviewed store owners in search of who might have sold the suspects the rope.

When Police Superintendent Eddie Johnson announced charges against Smollett, he angrily made clear the stakes of the investigation and why it was so important that police solve the case, saying that Smollett "took advantage of the pain and anger of racism to promote his career."

In March, Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx's office announced a stunning decision to drop the 16 felony counts related to making a false report, which angered Johnson and then-Mayor Rahm Emanuel and led to the city's lawsuit against Smollett and to a county judge's decision to appoint a special prosecutor to examine the way Foxx's office handled the investigation.



In this Nov. 23, 2006, file photo, the Sesame Street Big Bird balloon sways in the wind during the annual Thanksgiving Day Parade in Philadelphia. AP

2nd Sesame Street Place park opening in San Diego

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—There are plenty of sunny days to sweep the clouds away where SeaWorld is opening its next theme park.

Officials with SeaWorld Entertainment and Sesame Workshop announced Monday that they are opening the country's second Sesame Place park in San Diego in spring 2021. The first Sesame Place theme

park opened almost 40 years ago outside Philadelphia.

The announcement continues a pivot by Orlando-based SeaWorld away from live animal shows.

The new 17-acre (6.5-hectare) Sesame Place will be located south of SeaWorld San Diego. The space is currently occupied by the water park, Aquatica San Diego, which will have

its final season next year.

Monday's announcement is part of an expanding partnership between SeaWorld and Sesame Street, which is celebrating its 50th birthday this year. SeaWorld's Orlando park opened a Sesame Street section earlier this year. Officials wouldn't disclose the cost of the park.

Steve Youngwood, president of

media and education and chief operating officer of Sesame Workshop, the nonprofit behind Sesame Street, said the two brands have common objectives.

"We want to engage and educate families. We mutually respect each side's expertise and we collaborate together to make it work," Youngwood said.

Television's Weather Channel wades into climate debate

NEW YORK (AP)—The Weather Channel is moving beyond cold fronts and heat waves to wade into the poli-

tics of climate change, with a special planned for early next month that includes interviews with nine presidential candi-

dates on the topic.

The campaign's most prominent climate change skeptic—President Donald

Trump—declined an invitation to participate.

The hour-long special, scheduled to debut Nov. 7,

interviews candidates at various sites chosen to illustrate the impact of climate change. Sen. Bernie Sanders, for example, speaks at the site of a devastating California wildfire and Sen. Kamala Harris along a flood-prone area of the Mississippi River.

The Weather Channel has done specials on the impact of climate change in Alaska and along the Louisiana coast, for example, but this is the first time the network has gotten involved directly in a political campaign.

"It gets the conversation going in a big way," said Rick Knabb, the network's on-air hurricane expert and former director of the National Hurricane Center. He and meteorologist Stephanie Abrams traded off on the interviews.

The Weather Channel wanted to do the special through its own scientific lens, said Nora Zimmet, the network's senior vice president for content and programming. Although other networks inquired about joining and doing a town hall-style event, TWC turned them down.

"We didn't want to have a food fight about whose plan is better," she said.

While the special is something new for the network, Zimmet said executives weren't concerned about turning off weather fans who view it as a refuge from politics, or people like the president who see less urgency in addressing the issue. Despite a "vocal minority," surveys show most viewers want to learn more about the issue and potential solutions, she said.

Kylie Jenner trademarks 'rise and shine.' Of course she did

Never accuse Kylie Jenner of wasting time when something she says or does might make money.

The beauty mogul applied last week to trademark the phrase "rise and shine"—along with a more laid-back version, "riiise and shiinee"—to nail down the market on a mom moment that went viral.

Jenner sang those three words to daughter Stormi near the end of an Oct. 10 video tour of her offices, and the internet took over from there. Social media users remixed her words, used them as punch lines and transcribed them into sheet music, to name a few. Even Miley Cyrus and Ariana Grande got in on the action.

Cyrus, for example, shared a photoshopped clip of the 22-year-old bringing her vocals to the stage of "The Voice," prompting celebrity judges Cyrus, Alicia Keys, Blake Shelton and Christina

Trump may not be there, but the special won't ignore him or what his administration has been doing, Knabb said.

Trump recently mocked Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg on Twitter for a United Nations speech to world leaders and skipped a UN meeting on the issue.

All three announced Republican challengers to Trump—Joe Walsh, former Illinois congressman, Bill Weld, former Massachusetts governor, and Mark Sanford, former South Carolina governor and congressman—are interviewed. For time reasons, organizers chose the top seven Democrats in the polls: in addition to Sanders and Harris, Sen. Cory Booker, Sen. Elizabeth Warren, former Rep. Beto O'Rourke and Mayor Pete Buttigieg. Former Vice President Joe Biden was not interviewed; his campaign said it was a scheduling issue.

Knabb said the interviews have taught him a lot about the complexities of proposed solutions.

"The public is going to learn a lot from this," he said.

The Weather Channel's show is separate from the Covering Climate Now initiative, which encouraged news organizations to do more stories on climate change. There's been some criticism that the issue hasn't received enough attention during the presidential debates.

"We've been lonely here on these issues," Zimmet said, "and all we can do is hope that our friends at other media outlets join us."

Aguilera to slam their "I Want You" buzzers with gusto.

Jenner eventually acknowledged the meme Thursday with an Instagram post featuring her smiling face as a "Teletubbies"-style sun.

By that time, of course, she already had two logo hoodies available for purchase at the Kylie Shop online. Emblazoned with a "riiise" running down one sleeve, a "shiiinee" on the other and her face on the front in the middle of a sun, they were \$65 each. Yep, were, because they're already sold out.

The trademarks would cover cosmetics and various clothing items, including jammies, socks and underwear. The Kylie Shop currently has thongs with Jenner's first name on them marked down to half-off, so maybe Rise and Shine undies would do a little bit better? (*Los Angeles Times*)



Director Robert Stromberg's 2014 take on the "Sleeping Beauty" tale with "Maleficent" entertained through a fresh look at the familiar fairytale and with a story that showed the power of love can be found even with the darkest of hearts.

DISNEY ENTERPRISES/TNS

By **TRACY BROWN**
LOS ANGELES TIMES

When director Joachim Rønning took on Disney's "Maleficent: Mistress of Evil," creating something original was one of his priorities. And in building out the fairy tale world, the filmmakers came up with a backstory even bigger than their movie would have time to tell.

"Yes, the film is based on the characters of 'Sleeping Beauty' and the 'Maleficent' universe," said Rønning in advance of the film's release. "But it's a continuation of an untold story."

"Maleficent: Mistress of Evil" is set five years after the events of the 2014 movie that offered a new spin on a Disney classic. Aurora (Elle Fanning) is all grown up and making big life decisions, regardless of how Maleficent (Angelina Jolie) might feel about them. Maleficent's relationship with Aurora remains a key part of the film, despite it being put to the test by potential in-law Queen Ingrith (Michelle Pfeiffer).

But the big revelation in "Mistress of Evil" is that Maleficent is not the only one of her kind. The film introduces the dark fey, who have all been living in exile from the human world, and digs further into Maleficent's origins.

Among the new dark fey introduced are Conall (Chiwetel Ejiofor) and Borra (Ed Skrein), two leader figures of their community. Visually,

the dark fey are a stark contrast to the various CGI fairies that populate the Moors. And they also look distinct from one another.

"As a civilization, they are very, very diverse," said costume designer Ellen Mirojnick, who explained that the dark fey's backstory informed how their different looks were developed.

Because one of the underlying themes of the "Maleficent" franchise is "man versus nature," it was important for Rønning that the production's team look to nature in crafting the dark fey and their civilization. And they were struck by a surprising source of inspiration while working at Jolie's house.

"We were working on the script at her house together with the screenwriters," said Rønning. "We were trying to crack the code to the dark fey because we wanted to have different factions."

"And then, one of (Jolie's) younger daughters came in the kitchen one day. She had done a school project about biomes that you find in nature," explained the filmmaker. "She had made this board with pictures of the different biomes, and we all just looked at each other like, 'Brilliant, we have the different factions of nature here.' That was a huge breakthrough for us."

From there, the four different kinds of dark fey that are shown in the movie were born: The tundra fey, the forest fey, the jungle fey and the

desert fey. These four different factions are as visually distinct as the environments they are based on.

The desert fey have wings with colors that evoke their environment, and wear things that appear bleached and rough and cracked. The tundra fey are all ice, with a palette of white and blues and grays. Green and wood are what inspired the looks of the forest fey, while the jungle fey aesthetic was all about endless colors.

"What I really hoped to achieve in terms of the entirety of the dark fey and their costuming was that you not really notice the costuming that much," said Mirojnick. "Because they're a species that all have to look organic, and not 'costume designed.'"

Additionally, they had to consider the dark fey's wings and their ability to fly with every design.

"You would look at something and say, 'Do you believe that will go up in the air? Will that fly?'" said Mirojnick.

Production designer Patrick Tatopoulos explained that they had actually developed a full backstory for the dark fey to help explain their different looks as well as why they are all living in exile on an island. This includes the idea that the dark fey all originated in one place—their own version of the Cradle of Humankind.

"We had such a backstory for this and it's not all necessarily revealed in the movie,"

said Tatopoulos. "Their original world was that island. The island exploded, like a giant volcano, so they left many, many thousands of years ago and moved around the world, to different parts of the world, different climates. ... But they'd been tracked and trapped by people through the centuries and they came back to their original island."

This history helped guide the design of the island that Maleficent briefly explores during the film, and how the various factions of the dark fey re-created their different home environments.

Both Tatopoulos and Rønning explained that these details were very important to Jolie. As creatures that have been forced out of their homelands, the dark fey are essentially a band of refugees. Their backstory requires care and adds another dimension to the movie's overall story.

Although the movie alludes to some of these elements, most of the dark fey's backstory is not explicitly addressed during "Mistress of Evil" since the focus is on Maleficent actually meeting her kind for the first time.

"Sometimes you come up on backstories that are just here for us, the people working on the movie, to understand what we're doing, and you don't necessarily need or have the opportunity to reveal all of it," said Tatopoulos. "But it's fun. It's one of the funnest things in the design world."

Anonymous Trump official writing 'unprecedented' inside take

NEW YORK (AP)—The Trump administration official who wrote an anonymous essay about resistance from the inside has a book deal.

The book, titled "A Warning", will come out Nov. 19, The Hachette Book Group imprint Twelve announced Tuesday. It will likely set off the biggest Washington guessing game since "Primary Colors," the fictionalized take on Bill Clinton's 1992 presidential campaign

that turned out to be written by journalist Joe Klein.

The anonymous essay appeared in The New York Times in September 2018 and said that many within the administration were actively blocking some of Trump's orders. No one has named the official despite widespread speculation and Trump's own suggestion that the author's identity be investigated.

Twelve is calling the book "an unprecedented behind-

the-scenes portrait" that "offers a shocking, firsthand account of President Trump and his record." The author will be identified as "A Senior Trump Adminis-

tration Official."

According to the publisher, the author accepted no advance and will donate a portion of royalties to nonprofits that focus on accountability

and "standing up" for truth in oppressive countries.

The official's literary representatives, the Washington-based Javelin, have made deals for other books

that have enraged Trump, including former FBI director James Comey's "A Higher Loyalty" and former White House aide Cliff Sims' "Team of Vipers."

Nicki Minaj indicates she's now a married woman

NEW YORK (AP)—Ms. Minaj wants you to know she's now officially Mrs. Petty.

Minaj—who has dated Kenneth Petty for about a year—seems to confirm her marriage with a video on Instagram on Monday that shows off Mr. and Mrs. coffee mugs and bride and groom hats. The rapper also changed her Twitter name to Mrs. Petty. Her caption read: "Onika Tanya Maraj-Petty 10-21-19." Minaj's real name is

Onika Maraj.

She did not offer additional information.

The couple first dated as teenagers and reunited last year. She announced plans over the summer to wed.

She has come to his defense after it was revealed Petty has spent time in prison for manslaughter and is a registered sex offender for an attempted rape of a teenager.

This is the first marriage for both.

Henry Thomas, star of 'E.T.', arrested for DUI in Oregon

TUALATIN, Ore. (AP)—Authorities say Henry Thomas, the actor who starred as a child in "E.T. the Extra Terrestrial," has been arrested for driving under the influence in Oregon.

The 48-year-old Thomas was booked into the Washington County Jail and faces the misdemeanor charge after police said they found him Monday in a stationary car.

Thomas played Elliott, the young boy who befriends

an alien in the classic 1982 movie. He has also appeared in "Gangs of New York" and "Legends of the Fall."

An email to his representatives wasn't immediately returned Tuesday.

KGW reports the Tualatin Police Department said they received a call about a car that was not moving.

Police say officers arrived, found Thomas and took him into custody after a field sobriety test.

Celebrities to get drag makeovers in RuPaul's new VH1 series

LOS ANGELES (AP)—RuPaul is giving a dozen celebrities the chance to get drag makeovers for charity and bragging rights.

VH1 said Tuesday that "RuPaul's Celebrity Drag Race" will air as a limited series next year.

Each of the four episodes will feature a trio of stars competing for best drag transformation.

They'll be helped by past contestants from the Emmy-winning "RuPaul's Drag Race" and his all-star series, including winners Monet X



^{AP}
This May 6, 2019 file photo shows RuPaul at The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute benefit gala celebrating the opening of the "Camp: Notes on Fashion" exhibition in New York.

Change, Bob the Drag Queen and Trixie Mattel.

In a statement, RuPaul says doing drag doesn't change who you are, it reveals it.

The celebrity contestants, whose prize money will be donated to a charity they pick, have yet to be announced.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Supreme Court lawyer writes Trump impeachment book

NEW YORK (AP)—Neal Katyal is all in for impeaching the president. The former acting solicitor general of the United States and MSNBC commentator has written "Impeach: The Case Against Donald Trump." Houghton Mifflin Harcourt announced Tuesday that the book, co-written with Sam Koppelman, comes out Nov. 26. House Democrats have launched an impeachment inquiry, focusing on allegations that Trump pressured Ukraine to investigate Democratic rival Joe Biden. Last month, Katyal wrote a New York Times op-ed piece, in which he condemned Trump's "brazen conduct" and said impeachment was warranted even if

he didn't commit an actual crime. Katyal, who served as acting solicitor general during the Obama administration, said in a statement Tuesday that Trump needed to be impeached and removed to demonstrate that the president was not "above the law."

Snoop Dogg to promote Israeli pot-growing machine

JERUSALEM (AP)—An Israeli start-up that promotes home-grown marijuana says it has signed on American rapper Snoop Dogg as a brand ambassador. Snoop, an outspoken advocate of marijuana use, will promote Seedo's small refrigerator-like machine that grows plants with the help of artificial intelligence. The self-contained "grow box" regulates temperature, light,

carbon dioxide and minerals and is monitored by an application. The company says its box can grow a variety of plants and herbs, though much of its advertising has focused on the marijuana market. In a statement released by Seedo on Tuesday, Snoop said that promoting a product that enables people to grow plants in unused urban spaces "is something I'm all the way down with." Snoop started his own line of marijuana products, Leafs by Snoop, in 2015.

Queen Latifah receives Harvard black culture award

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP)—Music artist and actress Queen Latifah was among the honorees recognized by Harvard University for their contributions

to black history and culture. Harvard awarded the W.E.B. Du Bois Medal to Queen Latifah and six other recipients on Tuesday, according to the Cambridge, Massachusetts, school's Hutchins Center for African and African American Research. Other honorees include poet and educator Elizabeth Alexander, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution Lonnie Bunch III, poet Rita Dove, co-founder of Black Entertainment Television Sheila Johnson, artist Kerry James Marshall and Robert Smith, founder, chairman and chief executive of Vista Equity Partners. The award is named after Du Bois, a scholar, writer, editor, and civil rights pioneer who became the first black student to earn a doctorate from Harvard in 1895.

Matchmaker friend now tries to drive couple apart

DEAR ABBY: I recently started a romantic relationship with "Doug," a guy I have been chasing for a while. My friend "Cassie" helped to set us up, and I am grateful. Doug and I talk every night and are very close.

Cassie has a reputation for being a flirt, but I didn't think much of it. As the months have progressed, I notice her talking to my boyfriend more often. I'm OK with her being friendly, but when she hugs him or tries to always sit next to him, it makes me uncomfortable. I'm scared she's trying to come between us. Recently she told me that she thinks he's cute.

She's always telling me I'm too good for him or I need someone who understands me better. Doug tells me that Cassie is giving me strange looks and telling him that I'm too good for him. I am flattered that she thinks this, but I am scared about her true motivations.

NERVOUS IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR NERVOUS: Stop feeling flattered. Cassie's motivation may be she's sorry she fixed you up with Doug because he has begun looking more and more appealing to her. It appears she is trying to manipulate you and Doug into breaking up, and that's not friendship.

Tell her you and Doug are happy together, you're NOT "too good" for him and you understand each oth-

er very well. Tell her to back off and stop flirting with your boyfriend, and if she doesn't, recognize it's time to distance yourself.

DEAR ABBY: I have three grown sons we don't see often. They're married or live with a girlfriend, and they work a lot. I understand they have their own lives, but it seems their partners' families take priority over us. I feel bad about it, but I understand that this is just how it is.

We feel unimportant in their lives. When our anniversary comes around, they don't bother to acknowledge it. (They do acknowledge our birthdays.) I always make sure I don't miss an occasion by calling or sending a card. When the one couple needs something (like money), they always call. I feel if we disappeared, they wouldn't notice. Our anniversary is the tip of the iceberg. All the rest I can let go of.

How can I tell them how much it hurts without sounding like a whiner? I'm not asking for much more than an unsolicited "Happy Anniversary." Our "golden" one is coming up soon. Some people's kids give them parties for such a special occasion. I'm actually embarrassed. We do have a life. We travel. But a little acknowledgment from our kids would be a big morale-booster. Advice?

LET DOWN IN THE WEST

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

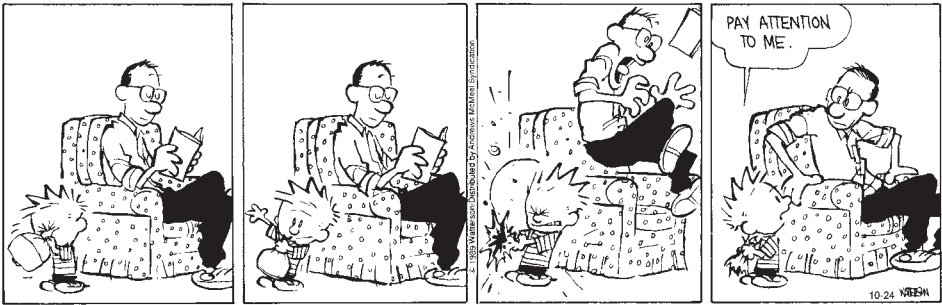
DEAR LET DOWN: Your adult children are not mind readers. They appear to be very much centered on themselves and their own lives. TELL them how hurt you are when they overlook your anniversaries. If nothing changes, the next time you are hit up for money, say no. If you do, it may lessen their sense of entitlement, which would be doing them a bigger favor than dispensing dough like an ATM machine.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

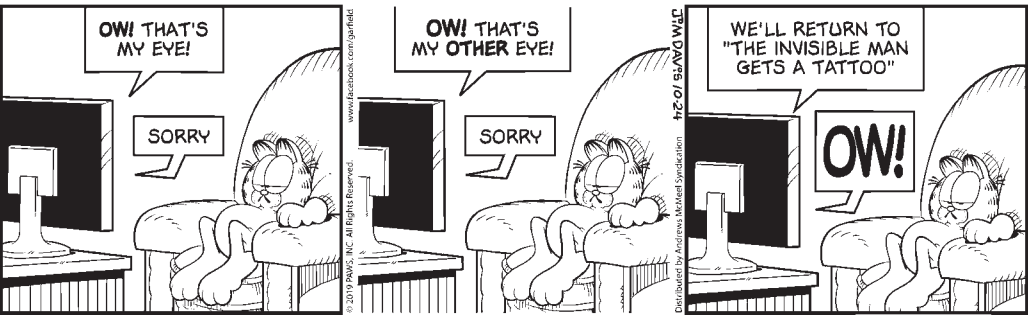
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



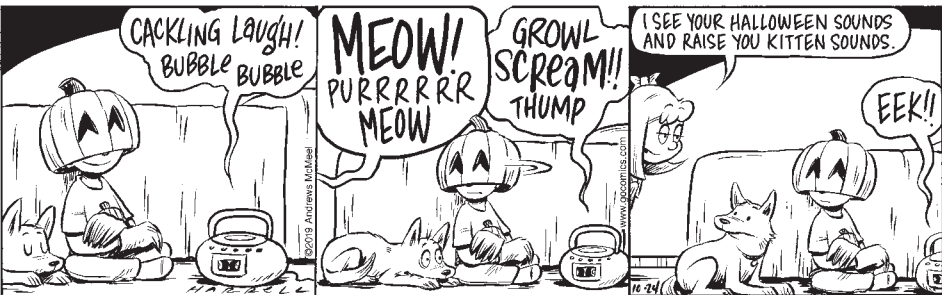
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Happy tune
5 Assoc.
8 Whole lot
12 Paki-stan's continent
13 Fish propeller
14 Head, to Henri
15 Thick chunk
16 Rx overseer
17 Tiny bit
18 Brave
20 "Parsifal" composer
22 Egg (Pref.)
23 Invoice fig.
24 Has a bug
27 "When I Need You" singer
32 Raw rock
33 Carry- (travel bags)
34 Gun-lobby org.

DOWN

11 Put on
19 Hosp. drip
21 Small batteries
24 ISP giant
25 Fury
26 Spotted cats
28 Finale
29 Turns to bone
30 Mound stat
31 Zodiac animal
36 Champi-onships
37 Köln cry
38 Theater platforms
41 Yes, to Juan
42 "Cat on — Tin Roof"
43 Whine
44 Harvard rival
46 "A Doll's House" heroine
47 Uses scissors
48 Summers in Paris
51 Allow

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 10-24

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: She-nae Grimes, 30; Eliza Taylor, 30; B.D. Wong, 59; Kevin Kline, 72.

Happy Birthday: Times are changing, and so are you. Evaluate your past, and rearrange your current situation to better accommodate what you want to accomplish. Having a meaningful purpose behind your actions will make your life that much more exciting and fulfilling. Get involved in organizations or with people you can share ideas and collaborate with to bring about positive change. Your numbers are 2, 13, 24, 27, 29, 36, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Be open to suggestions, and it will spark an idea that actually works for you. You have more options than you realize, and with a little ingenuity and hard work, you can turn your skills, experience and desires into something tangible. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Dig in, and don't stop until you have taken care of business. You'll gain recognition and respect for the work you do as well as for the way you handle others. Practicality and compassion will improve meaningful relationships. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take notes if necessary when dealing with people who are trying to get you to do something. It's essential to consider the consequences and how it will affect your reputation, position or status. Don't neglect your responsibilities. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Do something that will lift your spirits. A domestic improvement project will encourage you to spend more time entertaining family and

friends. Contributing to a community project will have an impact on the way you think and how you treat others. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): A manipulative or pushy individual will confuse you if you discuss your plans openly. Don't let the changes others make cause you to miss out on something you've been planning to do. Follow the path that suits you best. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Set a steady pace, and don't stop until you reach your destination. You have plenty to gain if you are willing to adapt to whatever comes up and work with what you have available. Use your ingenuity, and you will outshine everyone. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Find a way to cut corners or lower your overhead. An unexpected proposal will lead to a higher income. Verify any information you are offered before you share what you heard with others. You'll find a unique outlet to use your skills and experience. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Pour out your heart, and share your thoughts. You can make a difference if you are forthright about your concerns and finding solutions. Positive change will be uplifting and encourage a close bond with the people who chip in and help. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Refuse to let your emotions interfere with doing what's right. Temptation, poor influences and lack of willpower and discipline will lead to extravagant behavior. Focus on routine, fitness and getting things done. Don't give in to bribery or emotional manipulation. ★★

EUGENIA LAST THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Absorb what's going on around you. A subtle adjustment will make your life easier. Slip into a routine that will help you expand your interests and personal goals, and heighten your relationships with those who have the most significant impact on your life. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't be a follower. Happiness is the result of doing what's right for you. Rethink your current situation and what you want to achieve. Look for a unique way to hang on to what's important to you. Follow your dream. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Keep life simple, and you will find it easier to tick off items on your to-do list. Refuse to let someone's melodrama interfere with what you want to accomplish. Focus on peace, love and happiness, and you won't be disappointed. Romance is featured. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are responsible, caring and devoted. You are pioneering and adaptable.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

	1	7	5				9	3	
	8				7		1		
		4				8			
	6			8					3
1				6			8		
		5				1			
	7		4				9		
	4	9			5	2	7		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/24

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

5	1	4	2	7	6	8	9	3
2	9	6	3	5	8	1	7	4
7	3	8	9	1	4	2	5	6
1	4	7	6	3	5	9	2	8
9	6	3	8	2	1	5	4	7
8	2	5	7	4	9	6	3	1
3	8	2	5	6	7	4	1	9
4	7	9	1	8	2	3	6	5
6	5	1	4	9	3	7	8	2

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/24

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Nationals steal World Series opener from Astros

HOUSTON (AP)—Juan Soto and the Washington Nationals quickly derailed the Cole Express.

A 20-year-old prodigy with a passion for the big moment, Soto homered onto the train tracks high above the left field wall and hit a two-run double as the Nationals tagged Gerrit Cole and the Houston Astros 5-4 Tuesday night in the World Series opener.

“After the first at-bat, I just said, ‘It’s another baseball game,’” Soto said. “In the first at-bat, I’m not going to lie, I was a little bit shaking in my legs.”

Not even a history-making home run by postseason star George Springer—and another shot that nearly tied it in the eighth inning—could deter Washington.

Ryan Zimmerman, still full of sock at 35, also homered to back a resourceful Max Scherzer and boost the wild-card Nationals in their first World Series appearance — *tres bien* for a franchise that began as the Montreal Expos in 1969.

“They waited a long time,” Nationals manager Dave Martinez said.

Otherworldly almost all season, Cole looked downright ordinary. Trea Turner singled on the second pitch of the game and the Nationals were off and running, ending Cole’s 19-game winning streak that stretched back 25 starts to May.

“I didn’t have my A-game tonight,” Cole said.

Not what Cole or anyone else at Minute Maid Park expected, especially after he led the majors in strikeouts, topped the AL in ERA and finished second in the big leagues in wins to teammate Justin Verlander.

Cole had breezed through the AL playoffs, too.

Yet it was a further testament to an eternal truth about baseball: It doesn’t matter what you do the whole season if you don’t get it done in October.

“I think he’s been so good for so long that there builds this thought of invincibility and that it’s impossible to beat him,” Astros manager AJ Hinch said. “So when it happens it is a surprise to all of us because we’ve watched for months this guy completely dominate the opposition.”

Soto finished with three hits and a stolen base. Three days shy of his 21st birthday, the wunderkind left fielder also snared Michael Brantley’s late try for a tying hit.

Relentless at the plate, he’s already become one of those rare players—like Springer—who seems to turn pressure into production.

How’s he do it? Better launch angle? Improved



Washington Nationals’ Juan Soto hits a two-run scoring double during the fifth inning of Game 1 of the World Series against the Houston Astros Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2019, in Houston.

get out of jams. There’s a reason ol’ Max has won three Cy Young Awards.

“We got old and young guys,” Scherzer said.

Projected Game 4 starter Patrick Corbin threw a scoreless sixth for the Nationals. Springer connected off Tanner Rainey for his 14th career postseason home run before Hudson fanned Álvarez on three pitches.

Hudson retired José Altuve, and Sean Doolittle got Brantley on a lineout to strand Springer at second in the eighth. Doolittle then closed for a save to give the Nationals their seventh straight victory and 17th in 19 games dating to their September playoff run.

Leading the way was Soto, whose eighth-inning hit in the wild-card win over Milwaukee sent the Nationals on their path.

“He’s got kind of the ‘it’ factor,” Hinch said. “He’s got the twitch. He’s got fast hands. He’s got no fear.”

Soto looked overmatched when he fanned on Cole’s 99 mph heater in the first inning. Turned out Soto was just getting warmed up.

He justified his place in the 4-spot, launching a leadoff drive in the fourth to make it 2-all. He became the fourth-youngest player to homer in the Series, behind Andruw Jones, Miguel Cabrera and Mickey Mantle.

The ball was later retrieved from the train tracks and donated by Soto for a long ride to the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown.

Washington took the lead in the fifth. Eaton hit a tiebreaking single and Soto doubled with two outs for a 5-2 advantage.

After the game, Soto agreed to donate his home run ball to the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown.

Zimmerman hit the first World Series homer in Nationals history, connecting in the second. He was the first player drafted by the team for the 2005 season.

“It’s been a long ride,” Zimmerman said.

Cole left after the seventh, getting a pat from Hinch in the dugout. Watching from the front row behind the plate was someone who also knows a lot about pitching — Astros executive, Texas great and Hall of Famer Nolan Ryan, the Ryan Express himself.

Yuli Gurriel put Houston ahead with a two-run double in the first.

Astros superstars fail to deliver in Game 1

HOUSTON—Come November, Gerrit Cole and Alex Bregman may be awarded two of the most cherished plaques in baseball and bring the American League’s Cy Young and Most Valuable Player awards back to Houston.

There is another trophy they cherish above all, however, one that may slip through their grasp if they cannot reverse what ailed them in Game 1 of the World Series.

Quickly.

“I have to figure it out, ASAP, because I have to be better,” Bregman said after his postseason failures extended to Tuesday night and a 5-4 Washington Nationals conquest that saw the third baseman fail in several key spots.

“It starts with me. I was horrible. All night.”

Cole had not been beaten since May 22, a 19-game winning streak that continued through three dominant postseason starts. But the

man who struck out 338 batters in the regular season and mowed down the Tampa Bay Rays and Houston Astros in three playoff starts had no answer for Juan Soto, the Nationals’ precocious slugger.

In the fourth inning, Soto took a decent Cole pitch to the train tracks in left field for a game-tying home run. In the fifth, Soto killed a spinning Cole slider to left field, clanging off the scoreboard for a two-run double and a 5-2 lead.

Tip your cap, Cole said of the home run. The double?

“The slider was poor,” said Cole, who posted a 2.50 regular season ERA and had given up just one run (0.40 ERA) this postseason before coughing up five in seven innings Tuesday. “Didn’t end up over the heart of the plate, didn’t break like we wanted it to but he again used the whole field, stayed back within himself. Good hitters do that.”

If Cole was sanguine, color

Bregman sullen.

One of the game’s most magnetic players and a postseason hero during their 2017 World Series run, Bregman has had a miserable postseason this time around. After a 0-for-4, three-strikeout performance in Game 1, he’s now in a 3 for 22 funk spanning the ALCS and Game 1.

In fact, he’s going so bad, he let a grateful reliever get away with an egregious mistake.

After burning through top right-handed reliever Daniel Hudson to escape a seventh-inning jam, lefty Sean Doolittle was forced to face three daunting righty hitters — Bregman, Yuli Gurriel and Carlos Correa leading off the ninth.

Bregman got the count in his favor, at 2-1. Doolittle, whose velocity was down for most of his 1 ⅓-inning save, botched the next pitch — a 92-mph fastball that fluttered over the heart of the plate.

It was a cookie, a gift from

the baseball gods meant to be crushed into the Crawford Boxes for a game-tying home run.

Doolittle was sufficiently horrified after he released the pitch.

“Oh my gosh. I knew I got away with one there,” Doolittle said. “Baseball’s so weird because I was trying to go away. I’m not sure if the ball cut on me or if I just yanked it and it ended up right down the middle of the plate. But the weird thing is you could tell by the way he took it, it felt inside to him, even though it was right down the middle.”

“I think he was looking away. So, if I hit my spot, then I would’ve fallen right into what he was looking for. Because I missed my spot—over the heart of the plate—I got away with it. I knew I got away with it. I looked at (catcher Kurt Suzuki) and kind of shook my head and in between pitches I was like, ‘I gotta put him away here,’” he added.

Adam Eaton at the fence.

Heavily favored at the start, the 107-win Astros will try to get even Wednesday night when Verlander faces Stephen Strasburg in another matchup of aces.

Scherzer slipped in and out of trouble for five innings. But every time the stadium got rollicking, he found a way to

The MVP when Houston won its first crown in 2017, Springer set a record by connecting in his fifth straight Series game to make it 5-3 in the seventh. But reliever Daniel Hudson threw a fastball past rookie Yordan Álvarez with the bases loaded to end the inning.

In the eighth, Springer put a charge into a drive to deep right-center, and it appeared as though he might’ve hit a tying, two-run homer. Springer took a couple of hops out of the batter’s box to watch, and had to settle for an RBI double when the ball glanced off the glove of a leaping



Kawhi leads Clippers over LeBron, Lakers



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kawhi Leonard began a new chapter with the Los Angeles Clippers, scoring 30 points to go with a strong bench effort in a 112-102 victory over LeBron James and the Lakers on Tuesday night in the teams' season opener.

Lou Williams added 21 points and Montrezl Harrell had 17 off the bench when the Clippers opened their 50th season and 36th in Los Angeles as the once unlikely but now favorites to win the franchise's first NBA championship.

Leonard won his second NBA title last season in Toronto.

The Lakers showed off their new 1-2 punch of James and Anthony Davis. Davis scored 25 points, making 9 of 14 free throws, and James had 18. Danny Green outscored them both with 28 points.

But Leonard got it done without his personal recruit Paul George, sidelined indefinitely while rehabbing from a pair of offseason shoulder surgeries.

Wearing a black tuxedo jacket and bow tie, George received a mixed reaction when introduced in the playoff-like atmosphere at Staples Center, where the Clippers were the home team for the first of four meetings in the arena the teams share.

The Clippers' reserves outscored the Lakers' bench, 60-19.

It came down to the fourth quarter, and the Clippers dominated.

Tied 85-all, they opened with a 19-7 run to go up 104-92. Five different players scored and Leonard assisted on Maurice Harkless' 3-pointer.

With 4 ½ minutes left, Lakers fans chanted "Let's go, Lakers! Let's go, Lakers!" while others hit the exits.

The Lakers erased a 14-point deficit in the third, led by Danny Green's 18 points. He capped a 15-0 run with his fifth 3-pointer before JaMychal Green's 3-pointer pulled the Clippers into an 85-all tie heading into the fourth.

The Clippers outscored the Lakers 40-29 in the second quarter, buoyed by 16 points from Leonard.

The Lakers raced to a 13-2 lead, their largest of the game. James scored over Leonard and he later heard "MVP! MVP!" chants while sinking his first free throws of the season.

The Lakers shot 53% from the floor in the first quarter, while the Clippers missed shots and had a basket by Williams taken away when the Lakers challenged a foul call on Dwight Howard.

The rivalry was on early with a male fan shouting "Go



Los Angeles Clippers' Kawhi Leonard, right, dunks against the Los Angeles Lakers during the first half of an NBA game Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2019, in Los Angeles.

separation," Pelicans coach Alvin Gentry said. "That was the difference in the game."

Brandon Ingram scored 22 points and Josh Hart had 15 points and 10 rebounds for New Orleans, which began the season without No. 1 pick Zion Williamson. JJ Redick scored 16 points, Nicolò Melli had 14 and Holiday added 13.

The Pelicans made 19 turnovers, leading to 22 Toronto points. Twelve of New Orleans' turnovers came in the second half and overtime.

"We played hard, but we've also got to play smart," Gentry said. "We didn't play smart down the stretch there."

Lowry made a pair of free throws to tie it 117-all with 29 seconds left in regulation, and Toronto's Norman Powell grabbed the rebound on a missed shot by Holiday, giving the Raptors one last shot with 8.9 seconds to go.

Powell got the ball, but his long 3-pointer hit the back of the rim and bounced out, sending it to overtime.

Before the game, the Raptors received the biggest championship rings in NBA history and unfurled a banner celebrating their six-game triumph over Golden State last June.

"I have to start lifting more weights so I can carry it around," VanVleet joked.

Lakers!" during the national anthem, drawing big cheers while Clipper fans booed.

Meanwhile, As part of the NBA's crackdown on fan behavior this season, cards carrying a message from league security were on seats located courtside and the first couple rows back. They reminded that every fan is required to comply with the league's fan code of conduct and anyone who acts inappropriately may be subject to ejection and/or revocation of their tickets. The public address announcer reminded fans before both halves about mind-ing their manners.

Leonard took to the mic to welcome Clippers fans to the game. He had to raise his usually low voice to be heard over the din, a mix of cheers from Clippers fans and boos from Lakers fans. "It's going to be a great season," Leonard said. "We're going to play hard every night. Let's get it going."

Famous faces came out, including Kate Hudson, Angela Bassett, Jeff Garlin, and athletes Lisa Leslie and Diana Taurasi of the WNBA, Joc Pederson of the Dodgers and soccer player Alex Morgan. Halsey performed outdoors at LA Live before the game and Ty Dolla \$ign rapped at halftime.

Raptors 130, Pelicans 122

In Toronto, the Raptors slipped on shiny new rings, unfurled a championship banner, then got their title defense started with

a hard-fought victory.

Fred VanVleet scored a career-high 34 points, Pascal Siakam fouled out with 34 points and 18 rebounds, and the defending champion Raptors beat the New Orleans Pelicans in overtime.

"Pascal and Freddy, they are the young core, they are the guys who will carry this thing on," Raptors guard Kyle Lowry said. "I'm so happy for

those guys to go out and perform like tonight. We'll see them grow all year."

Lowry scored 22 points, including a pair of free throws that put Toronto in the lead for good, and Serge Ibaka had 13 as the Raptors won their seventh straight season opener and posted their eighth win in nine meetings with the Pelicans.

"It's very fun to be in the position that we're in where

we just won it but we're kind of on the climb again," VanVleet said.

Pelicans guard Jrue Holiday tied it at 122 by making a pair of free throws with 2:23 left in overtime. Lowry answered with his foul shots, VanVleet hit a corner 3, and Lowry also connected from long range to cap a decisive 8-0 run.

"They made a couple of big plays at the end that gave them

Woods, Spieth, and McIlroy lead star field in Japan

INZAI CITY, Japan (AP)—With a field that includes Tiger Woods, Jordan Spieth and Rory McIlroy, the PGA Tour's first tournament in Japan has plenty of star power.

The Zozo Championship beginning Thursday will be held at the Accordia Golf Narashino Country Club, about 80 kilometers (50 miles) east of Tokyo at Inzai City.

It is part of three tournaments that make up the PGA Tour's Asia Swing, including the CJ Cup in South Korea won last week by Justin Thomas and the HSBC Champions in Shanghai next week.

The Japan tournament, co-sanctioned with the Japan Golf Tour, is a 78-man, no-cut field with a \$9.75 million purse.

The weather could prove to be a factor on the weekend. Japan is bracing for two more storms heading its way a week after a typhoon devastated the country's central

and northern regions. A forecast for another typhoon has been downgraded to a tropical storm.

Woods last played in an official tournament in Japan in 2006 at the Dunlop Phoenix, where he lost in a play-off to Padraig Harrington. He won the Dunlop Phoenix the two previous years.

"It's going to be a lot of fun to be back here in front of fans that really understand and respect the game of golf," Woods said in a pre-tournament interview. "The game of golf is so strong here in Japan, and to have seen it grow like it has over 20-some odd years that I've been playing is very special."

The Masters champion is making his first start in his 23rd season on the PGA Tour, needing one victory to reach 82 wins and tie the career re-

cord held by Sam Snead.

Woods had arthroscopic surgery on his left knee two months ago — his fifth on the same problem spot.

He played in the inaugural "The Challenge: Japan Skins" game on Monday at the same course and did not appear to be in any discomfort.

Jason Day, who beat Woods in the Skins game, is also part of the field as well as Japanese star Hideki Matsuyama and Thomas, whose win in the CJ Cup was his 11th PGA Tour event and his second in South Korea.

After his win in South Korea, Thomas now has two more wins over the last three seasons in Asia than any other player on tour.

"There's something about Asia," Thomas said Wednesday. "I seem to do pretty well over here. I don't really know

what it is. It's always a good time of year for me."

McIlroy, who is playing in Japan for the first time in 11 years, said he wasn't concerned about playing on an unfamiliar course.

"That's OK. I mean, I've won majors before by playing nine-hole practice rounds," McIlroy said. "Sometimes when you don't know a course, that's a better thing. You don't know where the trouble is and it doesn't enter your mind."

There is an agreement in place to hold the Zozo Championship until at least 2025.

The tournament sponsor has drawn a great deal of attention in the relatively conservative Japanese business world.

Zozo chief executive Yusaku Maezawao, owner of the online Japanese retailer, is known for lavish spending on artworks, a Stradivarius violin and a future trip to the moon.



Perfect record for TanHoldings; Kanoa wins

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



TanHoldings Football Club kept its unbeaten record after notching another victory in the co-ed U12 division of the 2019 NMIFA Fall Youth League last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

TanHoldings hammered Shirley's FC, 9-2, to improve to a 5-0-0 win-draw-loss mark. Monico Claridades towed TanHoldings to the easy win after making a hat trick, while Semante Jimenez contributed two goals, and Jerald Dalawampu, Tamia Hix, Jared Coby Villagomez, and Adrei Kaithlyn Chavez chipped in one apiece.

Mohamad Khan delivered the pair of goals for Shirley's, which is still winless after five games to remain at the bottom of the team standings.

In the other U12 division match, Kanoa topped MP United, 4-2, to keep pace with TanHoldings, as the former now has a 4-0-1 slate.

Paul Lizama tallied a pair of goals for Kanoa, while Rigel Devey and Raymond Deijitas registered one apiece. Takeru Jim and Linden Miles had one goal each for MP United.

BOYS U15 TanHoldings 4, MP United 1

TanHoldings downed MP United in the second game in the division last weekend.

Kohtaro Goto led TanHoldings with his three goals, while



Shirley's Football Club's Bennet Haro, right, and TanHoldings FC's Kohjiro Goto run after the ball during their co-ed U12 division game in the 2019 NMIFA Fall Youth League last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Oliver Fajardo added one. Dylan Mister made the lone goal for MP United.

With the win, TanHoldings now has a 3-0-1 record to keep idle Kanoa within striking distance. Kanoa is on top of the team standings with its 3-1-0 mark. Matansa fell to third place with its 2-1-1 card.

Matansa 4, Shirley's 1

Matansa won in the curtain-raiser after outclassing Shirley's.

Alex Megino had a brace for Matansa, which finally barged into the win column

after three futile attempts. Carl Salas and Praise Woo delivered the two other goals for

Matansa, while the winless Shirley's drew its lone goal from Gabriel Arkoh Jr.

2019 NMIFA Fall Youth League								
TEAM STANDINGS (As of Oct. 21, 2019)								
CO-ED U12 DIVISION								
CLUB	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	
TanHoldings	5	0	0	34	11	23	15	
Kanoa	4	0	1	20	9	11	12	
MP United	1	0	4	23	16	7	3	
Shirley's	0	0	5	9	50	-41	0	
BOYS U15								
Kanoa	3	1	0	24	5	19	10	
TanHoldings	3	0	1	8	7	1	9	
MP United	2	1	1	12	7	5	7	
Matansa	1	0	3	7	10	-3	3	
Shirley's	0	0	4	5	27	-22	0	

'CRANK'

From Page 28

the octagon cage last June 1.

The Iran-born, California resident Dariush last fought in March this year at UFC Fight Night 146 in Wichita, Kansas where he won against Drew Dober via submission (arm bar) in the second round. Majority of Dariush's 16 victories were via submission/decisions due to his Brazilian Jiu-jitsu background (black belt), while Camacho started his MMA career as a standup fighter before developing his ground game. The 31-year-old Camacho has recorded 17 KOs out of the 22 wins he posted, while Dariush registered only 3.

"My fighting style gives Beneil issues. He, however, is a very smart and technical fighter. It will come down to who implements his game," said the Marianas pride, who arrived in Singapore last weekend after completing his training camp with Team Oyama in California.

"The training camp was amazing. Camp at Team Oyama

the second time around is better than the first. Conditioning was the big focus for this camp. I feel good about it. Game plan is on point," Camacho said.

The Dariush-Camacho lightweight duel is one of the 10 supporting bouts to the main event—which will feature American Ben Askren going up against Brazilian Demian Maia at the Singapore Indoor Stadium in Kallang.

"You can expect to see a perfect storm balance of the old chaotic 'Crank' and new and improved calculated 'Crank' in Singapore," Camacho said.

Incidentally, the Guam-born, Saipan-raised Camacho had his UFC debut in Singapore in 2017 when he earned a Fight of the Night honors after battling China's Jinglian Li. Camacho went on to get Fight of the Night awards in his next two bouts (versus Australia's Damien Brown and Dober) before closing out his first four-fight contract with UFC in September 2018 by challenging Geoff Neale.

HISTORIC

From Page 28

1-2 loss to the Blue Jays.

Despite his numerous achievements, Tenorio admitted it took him awhile to get use to playing in the collegiate ranks.

"It took some time for me to get used to the style of play here in the states, but once I got adjusted I started to play very well," said Tenorio, adding that he is just repaying the trust that their coaches gave him. Austin Burrows is the interim head coach of the Rams, while Charlie Spurr and Juan Gonzalez are the assistants.

"My coaches here put a lot of trust in me and I am a big part of this team. I have been able to strive because of the trust I received from both my teammates and coaches. I am very proud and thankful for the rookie of the week honors, and I will continue to do my best to get more and help our team," the prized rookie said.

Tenorio and the Rams, who are competing under NCAA



The CNMI's Sunjoon Tenorio celebrates after scoring the game winner in Suffolk University's 1-0 triumph over Mitchell.

Division II, will be back on the pitch today to play against La-



Kanoa Football Club's Rigel Divey, right, kicks the ball, while Gyu Heon Park, left, defends him during their co-ed U12 division game in the 2019 NMIFA Fall Youth League last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

AGAPE

From Page 28

terminated the overall winners in each age group in the boys and girls divisions by awarding points to students based on how they finished in the 3-kilometer (U14) and 4.5K (U18) races. Only the Top 5 runners from each school received points and the team with the least points was declared the winner.

For the U18 division, Agape garnered 26 points in the boys race to top the 45 of SIS, while the Torchbearers notched 31 points in the girls event to prevail against the 38 of the Lady Geckos.

Meanwhile, in the individual awards, Agape swept the first place honors in the boys and girls U14 with Allen Luo timing in at 9:22 and Emma

Pang at 10:25. SIS' Rigel Devey took the silver medal for finishing at 9:30, while his classmate Doyeon Lee bagged the bronze after submitting. 10:13. In the girls division, Dain Dana Lee completed the race in 10:150 to place second, while Joy Wu of Agape rounded out the Top 3 after checking in at 12:09.

In the U18 division, SIS won the top honors with Anika Snyder and Ken Song posting 15:37 and 12:36, respectively, in the three-lap course.

Agape's Ivan Guohao Li (13:08), and Kobe Yang (13:09) joined Song in the boys division's Top 3, while SIS' Tiana Cabrera (16:11) and Agape's Alice Yang (10:13) completed the podium finish in the girls.

Results in the U7, U9, and U12 divisions will be reported in *Saipan Tribune's* Friday edition.

sell, while their last two matches this month will be versus

Colby-Sawyer (Oct. 26) and Rivier (Oct. 30).

SPC members in Palau for Micro Cup

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

Twelve members of the Saipan Paddling Club left for Palau last Tuesday to represent the CNMI to the 2019 Micronesia Cup that will be held this weekend.

According to SPC president Justin Andrew, the club will have six men and six women paddlers joining the Micro Cup races and they made it to the team after going through months of training sessions and several typhoons.

Justin leads the SPC men's team, which also has Carter Calma, Benusto Olopai, Glenn Muna, Joshua Andrew, and Vincent Manahane as members. The women's crew is made up of Sylvia Taggart, Gerlyn Libunao, Elizabeth Tenorio, Lorenza Aldan, Ma. Victoria Saures, and Kalea Andrew.

"It's ready or not, we are going to do our best. Those storms have had an impact on our training and fundraising efforts, but we are going to do our best to represent and show full support to Palau as it hosts this annual event here," Justin said. The SPC president added that despite uncontrollable setbacks like the weather, they managed to train three times a week—every Tuesdays, Thursdays, and early Saturday mornings.

"We also incorporated some land-based trainings to supplement our canoe time. We are excited and look forward to the races," he said.

The SPC paddlers will be competing in the 500-meter and 1,500m sprints and long distances races both in the men's and women's divisions. Some club members will join the V1 sprints.

The V1 and 500m sprints



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Paddling Club members pose for a photo at the departure area of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport before heading to Palau last Tuesday to compete in the 2019 Micronesia Cup in Koror.

Seaplane Ramp in Koror.

The Micro Cup is returning this year after the 2018 event that Saipan was supposed to host was shelved due to Yutu. Saipan was also the designated host of the 2015 races, but they were canceled because of Soudelor. Every year, the hosting rights for the Micro Cup rotate among Palau, Guam, and Saipan. Paddlers from Hong Kong, Australia, and Japan are also competing in this year's races.

17 pros sign up for Hell of Marianas

Registration for the 12th Annual Hell of the Marianas Century Cycle Race is now open, as 17 pros have signed up for the Dec. 7 event.

Cyclists may register online at www.webscorer.com through Dec. 4. Bikers can enter in the following categories: pro/elite, age groups (men's and women's), 2-person team, and 4-person team. Registration fees are \$80/individual, \$180/2-person team, and \$280/4-person team.

The 12th Annual Hell of the Marianas is presented by Fiesta Resort & Spa and jointly organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority and Northern Mariana Islands Cycling Federation.

"We are so pleased to continue with the Hell of the Marianas especially after last year's forced cancellation

due to Typhoon Yutu," said NMICF president Vince Seaman. "MVA has long appreciated the allure of sports tourism in the picturesque CNMI. NMICF is grateful for MVA's commitment to support the Hell of the Marianas as a signature event that draws pros and joes from our region."

The women's pro list has Yasue Nakahara of Japan, Livia Hasenova of Slovenia, Hiu-tun Tsang and Phobe Leung of Hong Kong, and Kylie Jill Adair of Australia. Yasumasa Oka, Konno Genta, and Nagatsuka Toshiki of Japan, Narko Pavlic of Slovenia, Lex Nederloff of the Netherlands, Edgar Nieto of Spain, Hei Nok Wong and Tsun Ho Ying of Hong Kong, Kevin Olivier Biffiger of Australia, and Daniel Ven Carino, Ronnel Hual-

da, and Jerry Aquino, Jr. of the Philippines have signed up for the men's pro category.

The race is Micronesia's most challenging 100K event and highlighted by the untapped natural beauty of Saipan at its most distinguished attractions, including Suicide Cliff, Bird Island Lookout, and Banzai Cliff.

"The MVA is pleased to again partner with the Northern Mariana Islands Cycling Federation in presenting the 2020 Hell of The Marianas," said MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo. "We look forward to welcoming all local and visiting competitors to the Dec. 7 event."

For more information visit www.hellofthemarianas.com or www.webscorer.com Race ID No. 191292. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In this file photo, bikers cruise along the Capitol Hill road during the 2017 Hell of Marianas.

Saipan Marathon set for March 14

The 2020 Saipan Marathon is set for March 14 and will include courses for full marathon, half marathon, 10K, and for the first time in the event's history, a 5K.

The Marianas Visitors Authority has opened registration via webscorer.com, with separate sites for international (<https://www.webscorer.com/register?raceid=196894>) and US/CNMI residents (<https://www.webscorer.com/register?raceid=197420>), as applicable.

For international participants who register by Feb. 14, 2020, the fee for the full marathon is \$90, while the half marathon, 10K, and 5K are \$60. Registration between Feb. 15 and 27, 2020 is \$100 for the full marathon and \$100 and \$70 for the half marathon and 10K/5K, respectively. The last day to register for international participants is Feb. 27, 2020, at pm (ChST).

A special registration rate is available for residents of the CNMI and the U.S. For those who qualify for this special rate and register by Feb. 14, 2020, the full marathon fee is \$55, \$45 for the half marathon/10K/5K, and \$30 for students with valid ID. Registration fees between Feb. 15 and 27, 2020, for full marathon is \$65, \$55 for the half marathon/10K/5K, and \$55 for students. Residents of the CNMI and the U.S. who register from Feb. 28 to Mar. 6 will pay \$95 for the full marathon, \$85 for the half marathon/10K/5K, and \$55 for students. The last day to register for CNMI and U.S. residents is on Mar. 6, 2020, at 5pm (ChST). Valid photo ID is required to register. Registration includes the awards banquet, a finishers



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

An off-island runner celebrates his finish in the 10K event of last year's Saipan Marathon at the American Memorial Park.

T-shirt, and a certificate of completion.

Those who register by Feb. 14 will have their names included in the official 2020 Saipan Marathon booklet and on the finishers photo backdrop. They will also receive a personalized race bib. Additional fees for these benefits will apply after Feb. 14.

"We invite all runners and walkers to get ready for the 2020 Saipan Marathon, our prestigious local marathon certified by the International Association of Athletic Federations through the Association of International Marathons and Distance Races," said MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo. "We're very excited to be adding a 5K course this year to allow more people to participate, especially families and stu-

dents. We're looking forward to a great turnout."

The race will start and finish at the American Memorial Park. Start times are 4:30am for the full marathon; 5:30am for the half marathon; 5:45am for the 10K; and 6am for the 5K. The cut-off time for the full marathon will be 8:30am at the half-way point. There is no cut-off time for the half marathon, 10K or 5K.

All competitors are required to pick up their race packets on March 13 at the AMP. Pickup times are 3pm to 4pm for team/groups/tour groups/etc. and 4pm to 6pm for individuals only.

For more information, visit The Marianas Calendar at www.mymarianas.com or contact MVA Community Projects specialist Ed Diaz at 1-670-664-3210 or send email to ediaz@mymarianas.com. (PR)

The Marianas
| Saipan | Tinian | Rota |



Nationals steal
World Series
opener from Astros

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune Sports

SPC members
in Palau for
Micro Cup

PAGE 27



28 THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2019

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Historic rookie season for Tenorio

'Crank' ready to battle formidable opponent

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Frank "The Crank" Camacho will ride on the momentum of his TKO win in a previous fight when he takes on Beneil "Benny" Dariush in the UFC Fight Night 162 this Saturday in Singapore.

Camacho stopped (punches) Germany's Nick "Sergeant" Hein during the UFC

Fight Night 153 in Stockholm, Sweden to start the year with a big win and earn his second victory in five matches under the Ultimate Fighting Championship promotion.

"I feel the advantage I have right now is I just fought a few months ago and riding off great momentum," said Camacho, who saw action in

See 'CRANK' on Page 26



UFC.COM PHOTO

The tale of the tape of the Frank "The Crank" Camacho-Beneil "Benny" Dariush lightweight duel in the UFC Fight Night 162 this Saturday in Singapore.



SUFFOLK RAMS ATHLETICS PHOTO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Suffolk University's Sunjoon Tenorio dribbles in front of a Lesley University defender during their game in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference of the National Collegiate Athletics Association last month at the Rams pitch in Boston.

Many-time CNMI National Team player Sunjoon Tenorio is having an impressive rookie season in the National Collegiate Athletics Association.

The Suffolk University freshman has just earned his third straight Rookie of the Week honors from the Great Northwest Athletic Conference, according to the school's official athletics website. Tenorio is the first Ram to be named the top rookie over a seven-day stretch, three times in one season in the GNAC record books. His third consecutive award was announced last Oct. 21.



Tenorio has scored in the last six games of the Rams and delivered 10 of Suffolk's 20 goals so far this season. The Rams hold a 5-7-1 win-loss-draw record in the 11-team GNAC and Tenorio lifted the squad to a 1-1 win-loss mark when he got his third straight Rookie of the Week Honors.

The former MP United striker, who was also responsible for helping his two teammates score to earn a Suffolk-leading 22 points, made the dagger in their victory over Mitchell—his fifth game winner this season. Tenorio also became the first Ram to score against the University of St. Joseph in their

See HISTORIC on Page 26

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER



Agape Christian School swept the overall top honors in the U14 and U18 divisions of the 2019 All Schools Cross-Country Championships held last Saturday at the Saipan Country Club.

Agape accumulated 33 points in the U14 boys category and 24 in the girls to beat Saipan International School, which came up with 38 and 33 markers in the boys and girls races, respectively. The organizing Public School System and Northern Marianas Athletics de-

See AGAPE on Page 26

Agape takes top honors in U14, U18 races



KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Agape Christian School and Saipan International School students and other U18 runners head out to the course during last Saturday's 2019 All Schools Cross-Country Championships at the Saipan Country Club.